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ARAB TIMES

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Small Filipino boy saved miraculously Ferry disaster death toll goes beyond 2,000

MANILA, Dec 22, (Reuters): Fishermen dragged a five-year-old boy from Philippine waters today two days after a ferry carrying him and more than 2,000 others sank in the world's worst peacetime shipping disaster, officials said.

The boy, found clinging to a piece of wood off the coast of the central island of Mindoro, brought to 27 the number of survivors from Sunday night's accident.

Almost all aboard were feared dead after the Dona Paz ferry and a tanker collided, burst into flames and sank in shark-infested waters.

Chance

"It's a miracle, it's beyond imagination that he survived. Only God knows how," said Antonio Babies of the Manila rescue coordination centre. He said rescuers had confirmed a report from the local governor's office that the boy had been found.

A radio station run by Governor Jaime Valencia in the province of Mindoro Oriental, just over 100 miles (160 km) south of the capital, said the child was found in serious condition and had a "50-50" chance of surviving.

On hearing news of the boy's rescue, a nurse in a Manila hospital, Ana Coreta Nicolas, said: "That's the biggest Christmas gift he has ever received."

More than 2,000 people including hundreds of children, may have died when the Dona Paz, packed with poor Filipinos travelling to Manila for Christmas, sank late on Sunday night after a collision with a small tanker.

The Manila rescue coordinating centre said hundreds of victims had probably been trapped in the Dona Paz.

Others were incinerated when spilled oil from the tanker Victor caught fire and turned the sea into an inferno, survivors said.

Search

Hundreds of ferries, large and small, ply the waters in and around the more than 7,000 islands of the Philippines, and are the main form of inter-island transport.

"I think there were 1,000 children aboard," said Almario Balanay, a survivor.

The Philippines Coast Guard in Batangas, south of Manila, said search parties had found 21 bodies in the tropical shores and waters off the east coast of Mindoro island.

A US naval aircraft spotted debris and an oil spillage from the disaster about 12 miles (20 km) off shore.

Officials had scaled down the search in the hours before the boy was found. Reuter journalists who flew over the area said rescuers had been hampered by rain.

In the tiny fishing village of Herrera on Mindoro's eastern coast, residents pulled the bodies of five women, a baby and a man from the sea.

Recalling the 16 hours the Dona Paz spent at sea before disaster struck, Sofronio Sabuko, a survivor said:

"All I was thinking was the kind of Christmas I would have, and I guess everyone else had the same thoughts in their minds. There were so many happy faces on the ship."

He said passengers listened to love songs on radios and told of Christmas shopping and parties planned in Manila.

Describing the collision, another survivor, Salvador Basca said: "For about 15 minutes, I heard people in the water screaming for help. Then it was quiet and I knew they had all drowned."

In Manila, President Corason Aquino called the disaster "a terrible tragedy" and said she would visit survivors in hospital after attending a special memorial mass tomorrow.

Fifteen hundred people had bought tickets for the voyage. People who watched the ship depart from the south-eastern Philippines said hundreds of ticketless passengers boarded at the last moment.

US officials said today that the Philippine authorities waited almost eight hours to ask locally-based US military rescue experts for help following the ferry disaster.

Delayed

The time lapse appeared to be one of a series of communication breakdowns which delayed rescue teams.

Manila officials said they learned of the disaster at 7:00am on Monday morning — nine hours after the disaster occurred just 110 miles to the south-east.

US naval captain Mary Ellen Jadick said it was not until 2:40pm that the US base's rescue and recovery squadron was asked for help.



An Israeli soldier armed with tear gas rifle, gas mask and helmet makes a retreat from jeering Palestinian demonstrators. (Reuters radiophoto)

Palestinian unrest simmers Israel warns of using more force

TEL AVIV, Dec 22, (Agencies): Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian today, and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin vowed that Israel would use all legal means to restore order in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The latest casualty raised the death toll to 22 in two weeks of unrest in the occupied territories.

The Army said troops shot dead the Palestinian and wounded three others during a demonstration at Jabalya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. United Nations officials in Gaza identified the victim as Khalid Hamed, 19.

"Those who participate in violent demonstrations must know they are taking a serious risk on themselves. Any means at the Army's disposal, in compliance with Army orders, is fit if it serves the purpose," Rabin told reporters in Gaza.

Defend

The military said troops wounded seven demonstrators today, raising the Army's total number of injured to 171 Palestinians since Dec 9.

Rabin, who returned yesterday from the United States, was the first Israeli leader to tour the occupied areas since the unrest erupted.

Even if it will take another day or another week or another two weeks, on their behalf, on our behalf, law and order must be restored. We will use all legal means that we see necessary," Rabin said.

Syria called on all Arab states today to be ready to defend it against Israeli attack and urged them to back the use of force against the Jewish state.

"The big challenge facing the Arab nation in this dangerous phase requires more than ever the return of Arab solidarity to armed struggle against the Zionist enemy," a statement in Damascus from the ruling Arab Baath Party said.

"Consolidating this position lies in supporting resistance in Palestine, south Lebanon and the Golan Heights and in preparing to confront possible Israeli aggression against Syria," it said.

Israeli leaders said they expected protests to continue at least until Jan 1, the 23rd anniversary of the founding of Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah group of the PLO.

The Army Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, told a meeting of Parliament's Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee that the Army was trying to avoid casualties at all costs.

Danger

Troops have orders only to use live ammunition if their lives are in danger and if other means, such as teargas, fail to disperse demonstrators.

The Army ordered closure of three Palestinian colleges around Ramallah and a fourth in Abu Dis for one month after disturbances there.

Some stores closed in protest in West Bank towns, including Jericho.

(Continued on Page 2)

UK support reiterated Iranian invasion of Kuwait improbable: Mellor

By Keith Wells and Jadranka Porter

DAVID Mellor, the British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, has reiterated UK's support for Kuwait.

"We believe that Kuwait's independence and territorial integrity are of crucial importance and we deplore all aggression against Kuwait," he said, at a press conference yesterday.

Mellor added that "friendship and loyalty have a price and we are prepared to pay that price. All of the costs of the Armilla Patrol and our naval presence are being borne entirely by Britain and we haven't even asked Kuwait for a contribution towards this expense. To us it is an open-ended commitment."

Sale

When asked if the two sides had discussed specific arms sales, including the sale of sophisticated anti-missile missiles to deal with the threat of the Chinese Silkworms that Iran has fired at Kuwait, Mellor declined to comment in detail.

However, he said, "in the present circumstances it would be surprising if such a subject didn't come up."

"We will give all the assistance we can in the current situation and we are prepared to make even highly classified equipment available to Kuwait if it is requested," he said.

When asked if British assistance would ever include direct military intervention in the event of an Iranian invasion, Mellor replied: "I don't think an Iranian invasion is at all probable and it doesn't help to speculate, but let's just say that Kuwait has her friends."

Deplore

Mellor went on to deplore the recent escalation of tanker war in the Gulf.

"There is no doubt that the Iranians are responsible for the escalation. I think it is a cowardly thing to attack unprotected merchant ships. The Western navies cannot protect every single ship, but at least they can prevent the

(Continued on Page 4)



Mellor

Bodies turn golden sands into coast of death

HERRERA, Philippines, Dec 22, (Reuters): The naked bodies of victims of the world's worst peacetime sea tragedy washed ashore today, turning the golden sands of the central Philippines into a coast of death.

In the tiny Mindoro island fishing village of Herrera, villagers piled the charred, disfigured corpses of five women, a young girl and a baby onto a rack of bamboo slats.

"What are we going to do?" asked Mases Salba Cruz. "There will be more. Who will take them away?"

In the sea 200 metres (yards) offshore, a bloated body bobbed on the light chop of the tropical sea, partly covered by a palm frond shroud.

Dragged

Shortly after daybreak, fisherman Domingo Gida, 31, found the first body from the Dona Paz disaster when he went to cast his net off the rocks at the point of Herrera's beach.

"It was just in the water, I dragged it to shore," he said in an interview.

Driven by a moderate onshore breeze, the grisly, unwanted catch seemed likely to be just the beginning.

By late morning, Herrera's beachfront funeral pyre was growing. All the bodies were naked, save for one woman still covered by the remnants of a pink and white checked shirt. Some were pregnant.

In the next bay, two more bodies had been brought ashore, chewed by fish, charred by fire and barely recognisable as human remains.

Victim

A few miles further down the coastline, fishermen in a motorised outrigger "Banca" headed for the shore with yet another victim.

The mishapen corpses and the faint scum of an oil slick further north were the only signs of the Sunday night sea disaster that eclipsed the sinking of the Titanic as the worst in peacetime.

Four tankers hit in long-range Iraqi raid

MANAMA, Dec 22, (Agencies): Iraqi jet fighters, flying from bases 750 miles (1,200 km) away, fired Exocet missiles that hit and set ablaze four supertankers at Iran's Larak Island oil terminal today, including the world's largest oil carrier.

Lloyds of London shipping intelligence unit said the surprise attack took place at about 2:30 pm (1030 GMT). Shipping executives identified the stricken tankers as the 193,779-ton Liberian-flagged World Petrobras, the 238,558-ton Liberian-flagged Seawise Giant, the 231,629-ton British-registered Burmah Enterprise and the 113,780-ton Maltese-flagged Free Enterprise.

The Seawise Giant has a laden weight of 564,739-tons, making it the largest supertanker in the world. The Hong Kong managed vessel also was attacked in the last Iraqi air raid on Larak on Oct 5.

Smoke

Iraqi jets also hit the British-managed Free Enterprise on Friday, forcing its pilot to run aground off the Iranian coast as it dodged the warplanes.

The Iraqi Navy Agency said a large number of fighters attacked the storage tankers and set them ablaze leaving "a thick plume of smoke covering the whole region."

Shipping officials confirmed all the tankers were ablaze. But they said that all the fires except for a small one aboard the World Petrobras were quickly extinguished.

"There was only minor damage and no casualties," chuckled a shipping executive with a Tehran office.

The fighters travelled 750 miles (1,200 km) to reach their targets, the Iraqi agency quoted a military spokesman saying. A US military expert in the Gulf said "under any circumstances it is a very long and difficult fight for the Iraqi warplanes that must either refuel in midair or carry auxiliary fuel tanks under their tanks."

Assault

The Iraqi raiders ran little risk from Iranian defences because the French-made Exocets of the kind that hit the frigate US Stark May 17 can be fired from as far as 25 miles (40 km) away.

Last week Iran accused US forces in the Gulf of jamming Iranian radar during Iraqi attacks on shipping in Iranian service.

Gulf analysts said Iraq often attacks one of Iran's oil terminals in the southern Gulf when expecting a big Iranian land assault in the seven-year war.

Iraq said its warplanes bombed Iraqi positions and troop concentrations today close to where Iraq said its artillery

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WEATHER

CLOUDY weather continues with moderate to fresh southeasterly wind and thunder showers expected.

State of sea: rough

High water: 1.00 am, 3.00 pm

Low water: 8.00 am, 8.00 pm

Sunrise: 6.39 am

Sunset: 4.55 pm

Maximum temperature recorded:

Kuwait: 25°C 77°F

Ahmad: 22°C 72°F

Fujairah: 23°C 73°F

Maximum temperature expected:

Kuwait: 25°C 77°F

Ahmad: 22°C 72°F

Fujairah: 23°C 73°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 91 per cent

Ahmad: 90 per cent

Fujairah: 98 per cent

Maximum humidity expected:

Kuwait: 91 per cent

Ahmad: 90 per cent

Fujairah: 100 per cent

Minimum temperature recorded:

Kuwait: 13°C 55°F

Ahmad: 18°C 64°F

Fujairah: 19°C 66°F

Dhaka in grip of general strike

DHAKA, Dec 22, (Agencies): Paramilitary police with machine-guns stepped up patrols in Dhaka after a rash of bomb blasts shook Bangladesh during an opposition-led general strike today aimed at toppling President Hossain Mohammad Ershad.

Police said at least 150 small bombs packed with explosives and metal fragments went off across the country. Two people were killed in the southern city of Khulna when a bomb they were making exploded.

A bomb wounded seven in Dhaka and baton-wielding police injured 15 others setting fire to a van. Police also arrested 15 suspected bomb-throwers.

Patrol

The police said the bombs were set off by opposition activists to scare people into staying at home during the dawn-to-dusk stoppage.

Some 5,000 members of the Bangladesh Rifles were called out to patrol the streets of Dhaka, a city of four million people after the explosions.

The government today freed four more political leaders from jail in its continuing effort to start peace talks with the opposition leading to fresh elections.

Among those released was Tofael Ahmed, a key leader of the Awami League.

But the 21 opposition parties, which called the strike, have already rejected talks describing the President's offer to hold them as a trick.

They also snubbed a statement by the US Embassy in Dhaka last Sunday expressing the hope that the unrest would be resolved by political dialogue.

"The statement borders on interference in Bangladesh's internal affairs," a statement by a committee grouping the parties said.

Trimmed

"No nation having self-respect can accept such an interference," the statement added.

US Ambassador Willard de Pree paid courtesy calls last week on opposition leaders Sheikh Hasina and Begum Khaleda Zia. He was believed in political circles to be trying to mediate between them and Ershad.

It was the 14th day of general strikes across the country since the start of the anti-Ershad movement on Nov 10. The opposition has called another day of strike for tomorrow.

Hussein in talks with Gorbachev

MOSCOW, Dec 22, (Agencies): Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev today received Jordan's King Hussein for talks which Arab diplomats have speculated will search for ways to end the Iran-Iraq war.

The official Tass news agency reported that Hussein had a meeting with the Communist Party leader in the Kremlin, but gave no details of the conversation.

Hussein and his wife Queen Noor arrived yesterday for what has been described as a brief official visit, their first trip to the Soviet Union in more than five years.

The King met with Soviet President Andrei A. Gromyko yesterday and was honoured at a state dinner in the Kremlin.

Failure

Hussein visited several Arab capitals in recent weeks and diplomats in the region said he would press the Soviets to support sanctions against Iran over its failure to accept a United Nations resolution calling for a ceasefire in the Gulf war.

The Kremlin is reportedly Iraq's chief arms supplier, but the Soviets over the past two years also have attempted to improve relations with Tehran.

The Soviet Union voted for the UN ceasefire resolution, but has been hesitant about endorsing sanctions, including an arms embargo, against Tehran.

Soviet diplomats have lately hinted that they might support the sanctions if a UN-sponsored naval force in the Gulf were to replace US and West European warships now deployed to protect shipping through the strategic waterway.

"It is insufficient that Iraq alone is ready for a political settlement," said Gromyko at the dinner.

"The international community has the right to expect practical steps towards peace from Iran as well," Gromyko said.

Brides on trial basis

MUNICH, West Germany, Dec 22, (AP): Officials are investigating marriage brokers in Bavaria who offer Thai brides who can be returned or exchanged, police said today.

The Bavarian state prosecutor's office searched the offices of 10 Munich-area marriage brokers in December, a police statement said.

Three Thai women were arrested on charges of illegally entering West Germany, the statement said.

Police said the searches also turned up files and addresses which could result in charges against the marriage brokers for violating immigration laws.

According to the statement, the women, mostly from poor families, are recruited by a married Thai couple operating who promise them work and a husband in West Germany.

In Munich, they are offered to prospective spouses at prices up to 10,000 marks (\$6,060), the statement said. The brokers guarantee their customers can exchange the women if they are not satisfied, the statement said.

Fahd raps Iran for blocking peace

RIYADH, Dec 22, (Agencies): Saudi Arabia's King Fahd accused Iran today of blocking international efforts to end its seven-year-old war with Iraq.

"Iran's insistence on continuing this war, compared with Iraq's positive response to all regional, Arab and Islamic mediation and UN resolutions, makes Iran responsible for this war and all of its consequences," the King said.

He told the Saudi Press Agency that the GCC, which begins a summit in Riyadh on Saturday, had made numerous efforts to end the conflict.

Praised

He urged GCC members to strengthen cohesion for the sake of security and economic and social development.

"The security and stability of the Gulf Arab region are the responsibility of its people," he said.

King Fahd praised Iraq's acceptance of UN Security Council resolution 598 and said it showed Baghdad's desire to spare the region further danger and foreign interference.

Iran has refused to heed the resolution calling for a ceasefire unless Iraq is named the aggressor.

Foreign ministers of the GCC countries, which have been increasingly dragged into the Gulf conflict on Iraq's side, met today to draft an agenda for the summit.

GCC foreign ministers were reported to have discussed earlier in the day means of bolstering chances of getting resolution 598 implemented and easing tension in the oil-rich region.

Iran retaliates for Iraqi attacks on its tanker routes by striking at neutral shipping in the Gulf, particularly oil tankers plying GCC ports.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faissal said that the ministers tonight concluded discussions of security and political items of their conference agenda.

He said the ministers will hold a final round of talks tomorrow morning in which they will focus on economic issues.

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INTERNATIONAL

8 killed in Alexandria explosion

ALEXANDRIA, Dec 22, (UPI): A black cloud of choking vapour from the explosion of smoke bombs at an Army warehouse killed eight people and caused thousands of others to flee their homes, authorities and the state-controlled press said.

An official statement broadcast by state television only listed six deaths and said 445 persons, including 35 military personnel, were rushed to hospitals Monday suffering from symptoms of asphyxia.

Most of them were later discharged and only 39 remained for further treatment, the statement said.

But the authoritative newspaper Al-Ahram said today that eight people had died.

"All fire-engines and ambulances in the city were directed to the scene of the disaster but could not cope with the large number of injured," another newspaper, Al-Akhar, said.

Police stopped private cars and trucks and ordered them to transport the injured to hospital," the newspaper said.

Other sources, including the semi-official Middle East News Agency, mentioned higher casualty figures. The agency said 1,050 people were admitted to hospitals and 160 of them were kept there.

Al-Akhar said 200 remained in hospitals, an indication that the overall casualty figure was much higher.

BBC sorry for leaking message

LONDON, Dec 22, (Reuters): The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) has apologised for an unprecedented leak of Queen Elizabeth's embargoes Christmas message and said its royal reporter would be transferred to another job.

A BBC statement said court correspondent Michael Cole, 44, gave other reporters details of the pre-recorded television address, which attacked Irish nationalist guerrillas, on the assumption that the information would not be published.

But six national newspapers broke a 35-year-old protocol by printing details on Saturday of the address, which will be broadcast to Commonwealth countries on Christmas Day.

"The BBC apologised for the breach of the embargo on the Queen's Christmas broadcast by one of its correspondents," the BBC said in a statement.

Cole told reporters: "I have never been a mole (secret informant) and I never shall be... from the very moment I knew my confidentiality was being betrayed I told the BBC the full facts."

Soviets must specify pullout date

US undecided on aid cut to Afghan rebels

WASHINGTON, Dec 22, (Agencies): The United States will not commit itself to ending military aid to Afghan rebels until it has details of a Soviet troop withdrawal from the embattled country, Undersecretary of State Michael Armacost said.

Referring to the end of US aid, Armacost said in an appraisal of the war as it entered its ninth year: "These are judgments that have to be made in the light of the overall agreement."

He said US and other outside support for the rebels had increased substantially this year and helped put the Soviet troops and the Afghan government Army on the defensive.

"The Soviet Union has yet to commit itself to withdrawal by a date certain," Armacost said. "In absence of such a Soviet agreement, we are going to continue."

Condition

US assistance is known to include shoulder-fired Stinger missiles. But the State Department official provided no details of the American support.

In UN-sponsored negotiations, Pakistan, which also supports the rebels, and the Soviet-backed Afghan government have agreed that aid will end when the Soviet troops start pulling out.

President Ronald Reagan

implied in an interview earlier this month that the rebels would keep getting US help until the Red Army left the country.

But two White House officials suggested later that the aid would be cut off once the Soviets began a withdrawal.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, in Washington summit talks with Reagan earlier this month, reaffirmed a commitment to withdraw over a year or possibly less.

Armacost said Gorbachev gave assurances that once a withdrawal began the Red Army would not engage in military actions except for self-defense.

"It was something, as far as I'm aware, they had never said before," Armacost told reporters. He said he regarded Gorbachev's offer as "positive," but cautioned that if the Soviets wanted to use force "there is always an incident to which one can refer."

Performance

Muslim rebels forced Soviet and Afghan government troops onto the defensive in 1987, improving their performance in ground and aerial warfare, the State Department said yesterday.

In its annual report on the eight-year-old conflict, the department estimated some 3,000 Soviet troops were killed or wounded in 1987, bringing Mos-

cow's total casualties since it intervened in December 1979 to between 33,000 and 38,000.

Soviet and Afghan government forces also lost between 150 and 200 aircraft in 1987 as the rebels, who were supplied with Stinger missiles this year, challenged communist aerial supremacy, the report said.

Armacost said: "There has been a dramatic improvement in the capacity of the resistance to counter Soviet forces."

"Better cooperation among resistance groups on the battlefield and improved air defenses have led to Mujahidin (rebel) successes against Soviet and Kabul ground forces and have blunted Soviet air power."

The State Department report estimated Moscow maintained about 120,000 troops in Afghanistan, with another 30,000 across the border in the Soviet Union to fly combat missions and support other operations.

Morale

It said Moscow's troops, including the elite "Spetsnaz" forces, were suffering from low morale as casualties increased and the rebels grew more skilled in thwarting Soviet tactics.

Afghan government soldiers deserted by the hundreds in 1987 and some units were prevented from deserting only by force, it said.

Nude painting wins prize in Shanghai

BEIJING, Dec 22, (AP): A painting including a nude has won a prize at a Chinese art show for the first time, an official newspaper said today.

The China Daily said "The Earth," painted by Wei Ershen and Hu Jiancheng of northeast China's Liaoning province, was one of 15 paintings cited at a national oil painting exhibition in Shanghai.

The paper did not further describe the painting. But it quoted Ge Weimo, a leading member of the Chinese Artists' Association, as saying, "Although 'The Earth' is not perfect in its proportion and composition, it gives us a sense of purity with a simple, implicit style."

The paper said one abstract painting also won a prize at the exhibition, which features 439 oil paintings.

China long has frowned on abstract painting and suppressed the depiction of nudes on the grounds that such art showed decadent influences.



● A policeman dives from a patrol boat onto a surfboard rider protesting the entry to Sydney harbour of a fleet of US warships. (Reuters radiophoto)

Pledge not to incite people

Kim Dae-Jung accepts defeat

SEOUL, Dec 22, (Reuters): Opposition firebrand Kim Dae-Jung vowed today not to incite South Koreans to topple the government over charges it massively rigged last Wednesday's presidential poll, his aides said.

They said Kim, who finished third behind government candidate Roh Tae-woo and opposition rival Kim Young-Sam, told US Ambassador James Lilley that widespread fraud was a major reason for his defeat in what was South Korea's first direct, open presidential vote for 16 years.

"But I will not take the election process as an opportunity to mobilise the masses in protest as we do not have all the concrete evidence yet to prove all illegal electioneering," Kim was quoted as saying.

South Korea's most promi-

ent democracy campaigner, who was unsuccessfully nominated for this year's Nobel peace prize, said he would only "follow the people's will, rather than incite them to take to the streets" over the election outcome.

One Kim aide, who was present at his meeting with Lilley, quoted him as telling the ambassador: "If the people accept the election results, no matter how much I personally am not prepared to, I will respect their decision."

"Mr Kim has made it clear that he will not call for the overthrow of the current regime," the aide said in a telephone interview.

Kim Young-Sam, runner-up in the Wednesday poll, told a news conference today he would sanction opposition talks with President-elect Roh's camp on

reforming election laws ahead of crucial parliamentary polls early next year.

He repeated a call for popular protests against the presidential election, which he said was rigged by Roh and vowed to lead a "national struggle to nullify the results by peaceful and non-violent means."

The two Kims, long collaborators in the fight for fuller democracy, struck the apparently softened notes after mounting criticism from their supporters and the country's media against their failure to keep a pledge to field only one candidate and not divide the opposition vote.

The results of the election strongly suggest that if the opposition had produced a single candidate to run against Roh that candidate would have won.

Israel warns of using more force

(Continued from Page 1)

Bethlehem, while most in the Gaza Strip were open.

In Bethlehem's Manger Square, souvenir shops were open and Israeli tourism officials insisted the Christmas trade would not slacken because of the unrest.

The city cancelled its annual Christmas Eve reception for Israeli leaders and other dignitaries but said religious events would go on.

In an unprecedented outburst in the Arab town of Abu Gosh, west of Jerusalem, more than 150 youths threw stones at cars and clashed with police. The new round of unrest came as the UN Security Council again delayed action on anti-Israeli resolution because of the renewed disputes on how to condemn the Israeli killings of Palestinians.

Western diplomats said new demands by the PLO for a stronger condemnation of Israel broke agreement on a draft that would "strongly deplore" the killings.

In Washington, where officials have strongly criticised Israel's use of force, the State Department warned American travellers they could be in danger in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Arab East Jerusalem.

Christian church leaders in Jordan said today they have cancelled all Christmas activities except for worship services in solidarity with Palestinian protests in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Four tankers hit in long-range Iraqi raid

(Continued from Page 1)

"annihilated" attacking Iranian probes for a weakpoint in Iraqi defences.

In Moscow, Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir F. Petrovsky today called on other permanent members of the UN Security Council to convene a special meeting of military chiefs to hammer out a compromise approach to ending the Gulf war.

At an international news briefing, Petrovsky said the Soviet government would put forward a proposal for a meeting of military chiefs of staff from the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China.

The military conference could work on a compromise solution favoured by the Kremlin that would involve sanctions against Iran for ignoring a ceasefire resolution and at the same time to replace foreign warships with a UN naval task force.

Mysterious hole

NEW DELHI, Dec 22, (Reuters): Indian scientists conducting experiments in the Antarctic say they have discovered a mysterious hole in the earth's ozone layer over the icy continent.

In-fighting spills over into capital

Tamil hit man held in Colombo

COLOMBO, Dec 22, (Reuters): Intersecting fighting among Tamil rebels in Sri Lanka's north and east has spilled over into the capital where three men have been killed and a hit man has been captured, police officials said today.

Police said a man armed with an automatic weapon shot Tamil guerrilla leader Nagarathnam Sivasankar on Monday at the capital's Welawatta area, also known as "Little Jaffna" because many Tamils live there.

Police said the victim was an area leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in the northern peninsula of Jaffna, where about 800,000 Tamils live.

A senior police official said the gunman gave up after a chase and later confessed that he was sent from Mannar in the north, by the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam to

kill all Tiger leaders in the capital.

Nagarathnam was the third Tamil man shot dead in Welawatta. All were killed with the same calibre bullets and police have not ruled out the possibility that the same person carried out all the shootings.

"The rivalry among the Tamil rebels has been brought down to Colombo," the police official said.

He said there were about 500 youths living in Welawatta and in Kotahena, another Tamil area in Colombo, who arrived recently from Jaffna and were suspected of having links with the Tigers and three other rival factions.

The Indians were hunting the

Tigers who are in turn hunting down their rivals and that's why many Tamil youths were fleeing Jaffna and were coming to Colombo," he added.

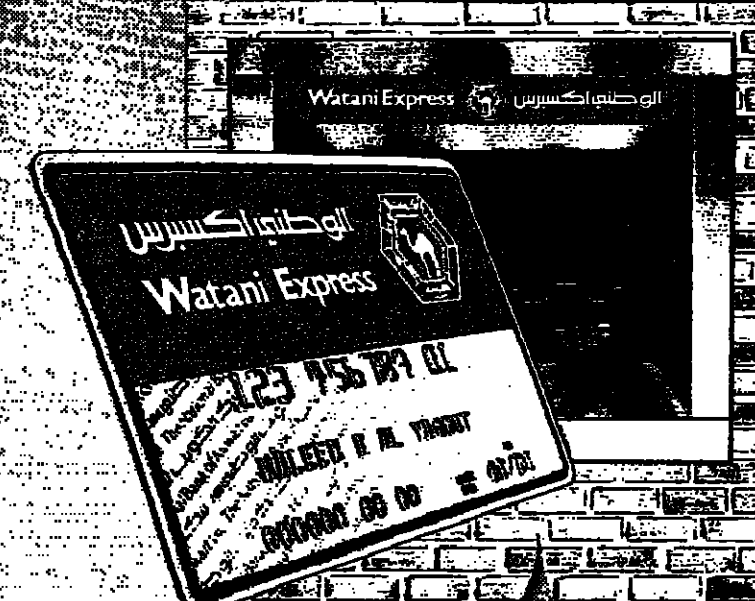
Signatures

Meanwhile, in Madras India's ruling Congress (I) party presented Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi today with what it said were five million signatures of Indian Tamils backing his decision to send troops to fight Tamil rebels in Sri Lanka.

Congress leaders at a party rally gave him a book they said contained signatures collected in recent weeks from a cross-section of people in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, where most of India's 50 million Tamils live.

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World Court to settle Bahrain-Qatar dispute

RIYADH, Dec 22, (Agencies): Saudi Arabia will sponsor a joint bid by Bahrain and Qatar to submit their territorial dispute to arbitration at the International Court of Justice, the official Saudi Press Agency reported yesterday.

The two neighbouring Gulf powers have been at loggerheads for about two decades, with each claiming the islands of Hawar as an integral part of its territory.

The chain of tiny islands abutting the Qatar peninsula is said to be potentially rich in oil and gas.

Freezing
The dispute exploded in April last year, when Qatar sent its helicopter gunships raiding

Bahrain's 10,000-square-metre Fushat Al-Dibal reef. The reef was being reclaimed on behalf of Bahrain by the Dutch construction company Ballast Nedam to set up a radar station.

The Qataris landed troops on the reef, seized it and deployed heavy weaponry after detaining 30 British, Dutch, Filipino and Thai engineers and workers.

Summit

Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan visited the two countries and managed to dispel the spectre of war, getting them to agree on freezing the dispute and submit it to international arbitration if need be.

Qatar later released the detainees and vacated the reef, but the dispute remained unresolved.

Qatar and Bahrain are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

GCC foreign ministers were meeting in Riyadh on Monday in preparation for the summit. Arab diplomatic sources said the foreign ministers did not wish to include the Bahrain-Qatar territorial dispute in the summit agenda, hence the Saudi decision to take it to the Hague.

Bahrain and Qatar agreed the court's ruling would be final and binding, a statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency said.

Uprising in occupied areas hailed

Osaimi reiterates need to convene peace conference

KUWAIT reiterates its call for the need to convene the international peace conference on the Middle East, a Kuwaiti daily quoted Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saoud Al Osaimi as saying yesterday.

The minister told the paper that the Palestinians' uprising in the occupied territories proved that any solution which does not achieve the Palestinian goals and their right to self-determination to establish an independent state on the occupied territories will be "useless".

Hailing the struggle and sacrifice of the Palestinians in their uprising Osaimi affirmed that such uprisings embarrassed the Israeli suppressing actions and racism.

The upheaval asserted that there is only one way for peace, and that is the international peace conference with the attendance of all UN Security Council

members and the parties concerned including the Palestine Liberation Organisation at equal footing.

Kuwaiti Minister of State for Foreign Affairs expressed belief that the current events in the occupied territories proved that the peace can be reached only through implementing of the international community's resolutions.

Symposium

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Graduates' Society organised a political symposium entitled "Struggle of the Palestinian people in the occupied land."

Speakers were Ahmad Al Saqaf, a Kuwaiti intellectual, poet and writer, and Dr Anis Al Qassem Palestinian professor in law and a member of the Palestine National Council.

Saqaf urged the Arabs to back the Palestinian struggle, by all

means, and to put into effect the Arab joint defence treaty so as to cease the Iraq-Iran war. He called for Egypt's return to Arab ranks and the Arab League to be headquartered in Cairo as it used to be.

Training

He urged Arab governments to impose military training on every Arab male and female; at schools, institutes and universities and to pay special concern to military industry to face the Zionist aggressions.

Al Qassem described the Palestinian uprising as the strongest since 1967, noting that the generation which is launching this revolt is the third Palestinian generation since the occupation of Palestine in 1948.

He called on PLO leaders to practice the struggle on the Palestinian soil as the people of Palestine build up its own power inside the occupied land.



HH the Amir in talks with Tareq Aziz (left).

Amir receives Saddam's message

IRAQI Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Tareq Aziz left yesterday for Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, after a brief visit to Kuwait during which he delivered a message to HH the Amir of Kuwait from the President of Iraq Saddam Hussein.

In Riyadh, Aziz will deliver a similar message from Saddam to King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia.

During his short stay here Aziz conferred with the State Minister for Foreign Affairs Saoud Al Osaimi on the Iraq-Iran war and the situation in the Arab Gulf region in light of developments in the Arab and international platforms, an official source at the foreign ministry told Kuna.

The meeting, which was attended by the Foreign Ministry's Undersecretary Sulaiman Majed

Al Shaheen and Iraq's Ambassador to Kuwait Asim Yousef, also tackled current efforts at the UN Security Council to implement the council's 598 resolution on the Iraq-Iran war.

Bahrain

Meanwhile, an Iraqi envoy delivered a message to the Amir of Bahrain, Sheikh Issa Bin Sulman Al Khalifa, on the latest developments in the Gulf war, the Gulf News Agency said.

The visit of Saadoun Shaker, member of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command, came amid reports of renewed ground fighting in the seven-year-long Gulf war between Iran and Iraq.

Shaker's visit to Bahrain followed one last Saturday by an Iranian envoy to the Gulf island to deliver a message about the war to the Amir from Iranian President Ali Khamenei.

2,400 students to be admitted

DR Ghazi Al Enizi, the Dean of Registration and Admissions at Kuwait's Public Authority for Training and Applied Education, said that the authority's faculties and training centres will admit about 2,400 students for the second session to begin next month. He added that the Faculty of Health Sciences had allowed 70 expatriate female students who had scored more than 80 per cent on the Secondary School Certificate examination to be admitted for nurses training.

Registration will continue until December 29 for students who are registered at Kuwait University and want to transfer to the authority.

He added that the names of students who had been accepted by the authority will be announced during the first half of January, 1988.

Students urged to support IICA

ABDUL MOHSEN Al Saed, the Assistant Undersecretary for Information and Student Affairs of Kuwait's Education Ministry, in a circular to public schools, encouraged students to support the International Islamic Charity Authority (IICA) in their support of needy Muslims around the world. He emphasised that this was the religious and humanitarian duty of Muslims, adding that such work helped to spread the Islamic culture and values.

He said that a committee of teachers of Islamic education in each school should be set up to encourage students to contribute to the authority and that special boxes would be distributed to collect the donations. It was added that 100 fils would be deducted from school canteen profits for each school student to be used for charity.

ROYAL COURT

Amiri audience

HH the Amir received in audience yesterday HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Soud Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

Amiri cables

HH the Amir received a cable from the secretariat general of the Union of Arab Cooperatives in which they expressed their support to Kuwait in its efforts to achieve just and legitimate peace in the Arab region.

The Amir sent a reply cable in which he thanked them for their good feelings, wishing them success.

Numeiri blamed for Sudan's problems

SUDANESE Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Ahmed Sayed Al Hussein yesterday blamed the regime of the deposed president Gaftar Numeiri for the problems Sudan is facing at the present.

He said, in an interview with Kuna, that the current government in Sudan has inherited a 16-year rule which gave no attention to security of citizens and strived only to maintain power by oppressing the people.

Ahmed noted that in addition to escalating corruption and the heavy debts, the new regime has to put up with the rebellion in the South led by John Garang which created problems like hunger and refugees.

Stumbling block

The Sudanese minister affirmed that despite these problems, the government was able to establish sound security bodies.

On Khartoum's refusal of Garang's solutions to the South dilemma, he stressed that the Sudanese government is a democratic one and will not

reject a peaceful settlement to the problem.

John Garang is head of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) which has been fighting the government since 1983. The movement aims at establishing a secular system in the country.

He refuted Garang's claims that his movement works for the liberation of Sudan, accusing the rebellion in the South of acting as a stumbling block in the face of the country's progress.

Moving to the Arab interior ministers meeting, Ahmed said that the ministers looked into the problem of narcotics and its effect on youth and ways to contain this epidemic.

He added that the conferees also emphasised the necessity of identifying international terrorism, noting that Palestinians who fight to restore their land are unjustly described as terrorists.

Regarding his country's position toward the Gulf war, he said that Sudan is a main part of the Arab nation, condemning the continuation of the hostilities.

Saudis airlift relief supplies to Sudan

KHARTOUM, Dec 22, (Kuna): The Saudi Red Crescent has earmarked three aircraft to airlift relief supplies to displaced population in the southeastern Sudan who fled their homes following the occupation of the border town of Kurmuk and Qeisan by southern rebels, the official Sudan News Agency today quoted the Saudi Ambassador to Khartoum Abdul Muh-sin Al Sidairi as saying.

Suna said Al Sidairi told the official media today that two of the aircraft were already in Khartoum and the third one would arrive within the coming few days.

Al Sidairi said the Saudi Red Crescent had also donated large quantities of medicines, supplies and tents for the displaced citizens of Kurmuk area.

The ambassador was quoted by Suna as saying that Saudi


Arabia has agreed to extend to Sudan \$45 million grant worth of petroleum products bringing to \$90 million the Saudi assistance to Sudan of oil supplies this year.

He said the Sudanese-Saudi cooperation was deeply rooted due to the common fate and common destiny. He said the Saudi cooperation with Sudan was demonstrated by King Fahd who recently confirmed to a Sudanese delegation the kingdom's commitment to provide Sudan with emergency assistance to face the "critical circumstances" facing Sudan following the recent event in Kurmuk.

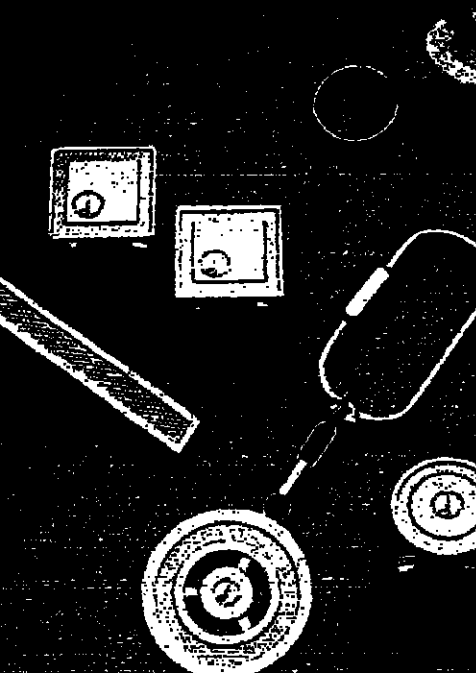
Al Sidairi said the Saudi Fund for Economic Development has pledged to finance a number of projects in Sudan in the field of agriculture, road construction and communications against one billion Saudi riyals.



Eleven employees from nine travel agencies in Kuwait took part in a passenger tariff and ticketing course arranged by Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) manager in Kuwait, Ashraf Kamal Halder. The chief instructor in marketing at the PIA training centre, Karachi, Khawaja Shujauddin, conducted the course. Picture shows the students and PIA staff. (Photo by Javed Basra)



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Sheikh Saad visits air base

HH the Crown Prince and Premier, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah yesterday visited the Ali Al Salem Air Base, during which he attended the weapons exhibition sponsored by the military delegation which accompanied Egyptian Deputy Premier and Defence Minister Field Marshal Abdel Halim Abu Ghazala on his recent visit to the country.

The Crown Prince and Premier was accompanied by Ministers of Information, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Electricity and Water, and Industry and Commerce.

Minister of Defence Sheikh Salem Al Sabah and other ranking officers greeted Sheikh Saad upon arrival at the base.

After inspecting the guard of honour Sheikh Saad toured the various pavilions of the exhibition and got acquainted with weapons and military equipment on display which were either upgraded or produced in Egypt.

Sheikh Saad also listened to explanations by Egyptian officers and technicians on the effectiveness, usages and the prolonged experiments these weapons underwent.

The Crown Prince expressed satisfaction over the advanced level of the weapons and also thanked those working at the exhibition.

The exhibition falls within the framework of bilateral cooperation and exchanging of military expertise between the two countries.



Sheikh Saad is seen talking with Sheikh Salem (above) and examining Egyptian weapons and equipment.

Kennedy to visit Kuwait

BAHRAIN, Dec 22. (Reuters): US Democratic Senator Edward Kennedy will visit two US warships in the Gulf as part of a fact finding mission over the Christmas holiday, an aide to the Senator said today.

Kennedy, who arrived in Bahrain yesterday, will spend five days in the region meeting US military personnel and diplomats and talking with local officials.

Kennedy is due to visit Oman and Kuwait during the trip. The ships he will visit are the aircraft carrier Midway stationed in the Arabian Sea and the USS Okinawa, a helicopter carrier now in the Gulf.

UAE-Iran seek to boost ties

DUBAI, Dec 22. (Kuna): Iran and the United Arab Emirates have discussed avenues of promoting bilateral cooperation in the economic and agricultural sectors.

The issue was brought up for discussion by the visiting member of the Iranian shura (consultative) Council Ghulam Hosni Nadi in a meeting with UAE Finance and Industry Minister Hamdan Bin Rashid.

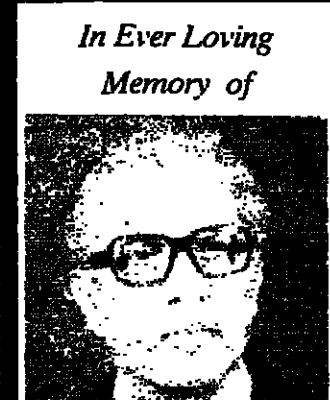
The meeting was attended by the Iranian ambassador to the UAE Mustafa Fomini Hairi.

Donation for flood victims

ZAKAT House continues to collect donations and relief items for flood victims in Bangladesh, adding to the reported KD2,379 received from Kuwait's Public Authority for Civil Information. A source at Zakat House said this sum represented donations made by employees at the authority.

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Abdullah arrives in Jordan

AMMAN, Dec 22. (Reuters): Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah arrived in Jordan today on the last stop of a four-nation tour aimed at improving Arab unity.

Witnesses said Jordan's Prince Hassan was at the airport to greet Prince Abdullah on his arrival from Cairo. The Saudi Prince also visited Iraq and Syria as part of efforts to improve ties between the long-time foes.

King Hussein, now on an official visit to Moscow, said Iraq and Syria had reconciled at the summit but little solid progress towards better ties has emerged since.

Solidarity
Prince Abdullah's visit to Jordan, also involved in efforts to achieve Arab unity, comes four days ahead of a summit of the six-member Gulf Cooperation

Council expected to focus on the Iran-Iraq war.

In Cairo, Prince Abdullah, met President Hosni Mubarak today for talks which Arab diplomats said would focus on the Gulf war and efforts to foster Arab relations.

The prince met Mubarak privately on Monday shortly after arriving from Damascus where he had talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

Saudi and Egyptian officials made no comment after his initial discussion with Mubarak which extended over a working dinner.

He has also visited Iraq. King Hussein of Jordan was chairman of last month's Arab summit conference which endorsed a plan to reconcile Iraq and Syria.

Crown Prince Abdullah, setting the tone of his tour in an

arrival statement, underscored the importance of Arab solidarity. "Arab solidarity is the mainstay of our policy and a united Arab nation could achieve our noble objectives," he said.

Probing
Arab diplomats in Cairo said the prince was probing the possibility of patching up Arab differences during his tour.

Foremost among these, they said, were efforts to heal a 20-year-old ideological and political rift between Iraq and Syria; Iran's leading Arab ally in the Gulf war.

The prince, the first senior Saudi official to visit Egypt since the restoration of relations between the two countries last month, was also expected to discuss the promotion of bilateral relations.



Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah meets Egyptian President Mubarak during his one-day official visit to Egypt. (Reuters radiophoto)

Boy killed

AN 11-year-old boy died in a traffic accident on the Fahad highway yesterday.

There were 12 traffic accidents in Kuwait. Two took place in the capital, two in Hawalli, seven in Ahmadi and one in Jahra.

WHO experts praise Oman

MUSCAT, Dec 22. (Kuna): Two experts from the World Health Organisation have praised the accelerated progress witnessed by the Sultanate in the various

health fields, and the role played by the Omani Ministry of Health in the preventive medicine domains against the various diseases, including the contagious ones.

They termed as "satisfactory" the studies conducted by the Ministry of Health on the epidemic condition of cerebrospinal meningitis.

The results of the analyses and tests conducted on numerous samples taken from citizens of different ages all over the sultanate, the two WHO experts stressed, indicated that the microbe has abated and is no more epidemic. No more precautions nor emergency procedures are required following the action adopted by the Ministry of Health, they added.

The two experts Dr Mohammed Helmi Wahdan, director and head of the preventive medicine department at WHO, and Dr Alyya Abdul Gawwad Abbas, Egyptian professor and head of the micro-biology department and the WHO advisor, have recently paid a few weeks-long visit to the sultanate where they followed up the studies conducted by the Ministry of Health which started in September on the epidemic condition of cerebrospinal meningitis.

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Security cooperation

EGYPT'S Interior Minister Major General Zaki Badr was quoted here yesterday as saying that his country is ready to step up security cooperation with Kuwait and to exchange expertise in this sphere.

In an interview with a Kuwaiti newspaper, Badr noted that Egypt's security cooperation with Kuwait in particular and with Arab countries in general was never stopped during severance of relations between Egypt and the Arab states.

Kuwait received from and despatched to Cairo a number of security delegations, many of them for training purposes, he said, adding that Arab security is an indivisible issue.

Over Egypt's plans to support cooperation with Kuwait in the security field, the Egyptian official stressed that Cairo is ready to do so with Kuwait, the Gulf states and other Arab countries the way they like, whether through bilateral agreements or arranging certain protocols for exchange of expertise and visits.

Inter-school tournament

THE Indian School (senior) in Kuwait is holding an inter-school tournament in badminton, table tennis, chess, basketball and volleyball to mark the 40th anniversary of India's independence.

Girls and boys from the New Indian School, Carmel School, Indian School (Senior), Indian School (Junior) and Indian School (Mangar) will participate.

The badminton tournament will be held on Dec 23 and 24, basketball Dec 26 to 28, volleyball Dec 29 to 31, chess Jan 7, and table tennis Jan 26.

In addition to individual prizes, rolling shields will be awarded to the winning teams.

Saber remains as president

TUNIS, Dec 22. (Kuna): Participants in the 9th session of the Arab League educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation decided in a closed session last night that Dr Mohiaddin Saber remain president of the organisation for one more year.

Following the one-year term, an extraordinary meeting for the organisation's general conference will be held to elect a new president.

Sub-committees formed by the general session concluded their meetings last night and are expected to prepare their reports for deliberations today.

Hard labour for smuggling

KUWAIT'S Criminal Court sentenced a Filipino to four years hard labour to be followed by deportation after being convicted of smuggling counterfeit banknotes into the country.

According to testimony given in court, six \$100 banknotes were found in the defendant's room at Khiran Resort, where the defendant was employed, while resort security men were looking for money which was suspected stolen by the defendant.

The defendant admitted to having brought the forged banknotes from Saudi Arabia where he had been previously employed.

Fahd receives letter from Chirac

RIYADH, Dec 22. (Kuna): King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, today received letters from French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac and President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan, state-run radio Riyadh reported.

The letters were delivered by ambassadors of France and the UAE in separate audiences with the monarch, the radio said without elaboration.

Somali team tours Kuna

VISITING Somali Minister of Information and National Guidance Abdurashid Sheikh Ahmad yesterday visited the Kuwait News Agency's headquarters accompanied by director-general of the Somali News Agency and member of the Peoples Assembly and head of the Somali Journalists Association Ahmad Omar Al Azhari, Somali Ambassador to Kuwait Mohammed Al Sheikh Mahmoud and Information Minister's secretary Mualim Mohammed Nour.

The minister, and his accompanying delegation, met with board chairman and director-general of Kuna Barges Hmoud Al Barges, deputy director general Ahmad Dashti along with a number of department chiefs.

Barges welcomed the Somali guests and explained stages of Kuna's establishment and its march in service of Kuwait, Arab, Islamic and Third World nations.

The chairman highlighted that the agency depends on team work and objectivity which is why it is popular.

The minister thanked Barges for the meeting and underlined that Kuna is well known in Somalia and "we benefit a lot from its news."

He noted that Somali News Agency has limited capabilities, and hoped for more cooperation between the two agencies.

Training
The director-general of the Somali News Agency, for his part, expressed pleasure for meeting with Kuna officials and reiterated that "the most correct, balanced and accurate news" are received in his country from Radio Kuwait and Kuna.

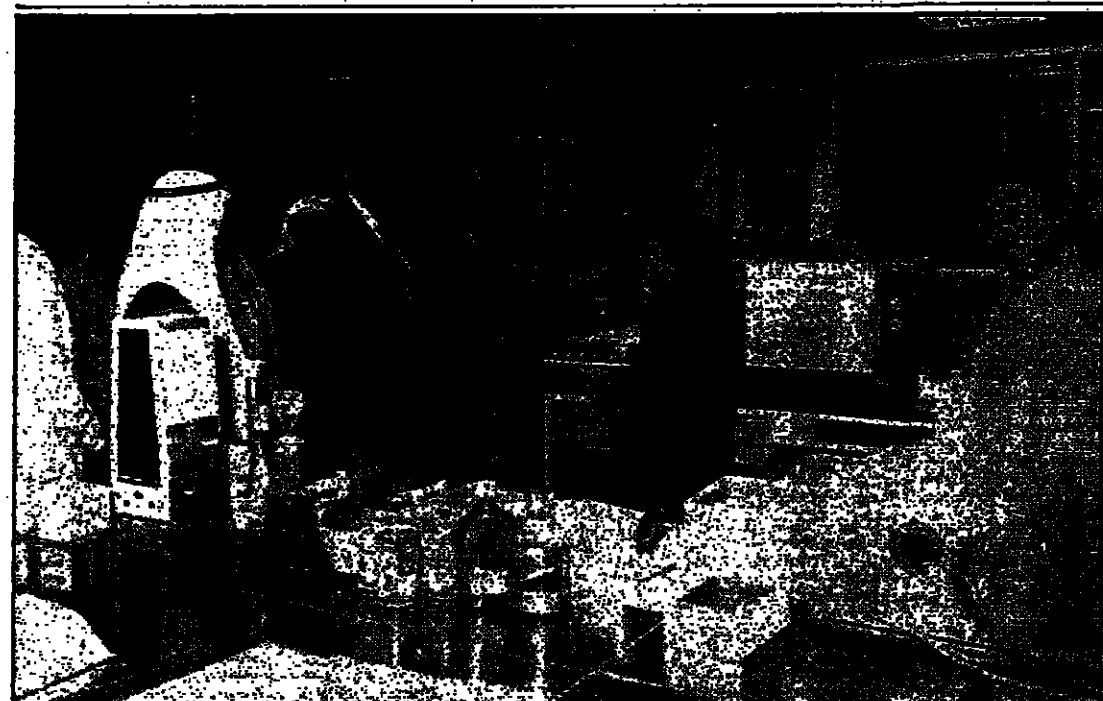
He said that the delegation's current tour of Arab countries aims at discussing whatever equipments their news agencies can supply to Somali News Agency.

Referring to the minister's remarks that the Somali cadres lack proper training, Barges expressed readiness to train them in editing news, technical affairs, photography and documentation and in research fields and promised to provide equipment and assistance to the Somali

Cleaning services discussed

KUWAIT'S Municipal Council at its recent meeting, chaired by the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, Abdul Rahman Khalid Al Ghamdi, discussed the need for regular cleaning services at the new fruit and vegetable market as well as the relocation of the market's security guards' quarters to the new area. It was also suggested that insecticides be used regularly at the market to prevent flies and other insects.

The committee also discussed the need to transfer cargo entering the country at border checkpoints to Kuwait trucks in an attempt to stop all smuggling attempts. It was also emphasised that other agencies need to be involved in curbing the smuggling of hallucinogenic drugs into the country since it appeared to be more than the police could control.



The minister is seen at the CID laboratory.

Evaluation bureau studying work conditions

MOHAMMAD Al Rifai, the head of the Manpower Evaluation Bureau of Kuwait's Communications Ministry, said that the bureau studies the work conditions of the ministry to evaluate its efficiency and then plans appropriate proposals based on their observations.

Al Rifai explained that according to statistics there is a gap between the use of up-to-date equipment and production rates in various fields. He said that this gap is attributed to the lack of advanced planning of technical and administrative operations.

He added that the bureau had been successful with a number of departments and that a questionnaire had been prepared by them which attempted to determine

quality of the interaction between management and labour and their colleagues.

Al Rifai said that the reason for the decrease in Kuwaiti graduates working in the public sector was the absence of sound planning in providing scholarships and grants.

570 bottles of whisky seized

DETECTIVES of Jahra Governorate seized 570 bottles of whisky and 1,139 unidentified pills from a car at Al Layah area near the sixth brigade road.

They arrested three men on a charge of trying to smuggle the contraband into the country.

Sudanese minister visits Interior Ministry

THE Sudanese Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Ahmed Al Hussein and his accompanying delegation yesterday conducted a tour of the Interior Ministry, during which he visited the public department for traffic and the criminal investigations department.

During his visit to the traffic department, the guest was briefed on the tasks of the various divisions of the body by director general of the department Brigadier Fouad Musa'ad Al Saleh and other department heads.

The minister then moved on to the CID where he listened to an explanation on the department's duties from its director general Brigadier Mansour Al Ibrahim.

UK reiterates support to Kuwait

(Continued from Page 1)

situation getting worse," he added.

Turning to the question of a UN arms embargo against Iran he said, such an embargo can be effective even if it is not 100 per cent efficient.

"There will always be black markets and so on, but it would show Iran that the world wants an end to the war and that Iran must take UN resolution 598 seriously," he added.

On Silk worm missiles in Iranian hands he said: "It is clear that they have come from China, which is a member of the Security Council and this must cease."

Impose

Mellor stressed that the failure of the Security Council to impose an arms embargo so far was due to the Soviet refusal to join such an embargo until last week.

He pointed out that Britain herself has imposed an embargo on arms sales to both sides. "This

has been given the force of law," he said, adding, "offenders have been, and will continue to be prosecuted for breaking the law."

Elaborating on Britain's role in the Gulf, Mellor pointed out that the Armilla Patrol had accompanied over 30 ships every month and more than 17 million tons of shipping during the past month alone.

He said that Kuwait has expressed their warm recognition of Britain's role.

Turning to the present uprising in the occupied territories Mellor said that the British government has "called upon the Israeli occupying forces to act in a restrained and humane manner. There must be an end to harsh Israeli crowd control methods."

"These events tragically demonstrate that the present situation in the occupied territories cannot continue. The Israelis cannot go on with scenes

like those we have been seeing on television, they cannot go on with over 50 per cent of the population who do not want to be part of Israel," he said.

Plan
Mellor then said that he plans to visit Gaza, the West Bank and the Golan Heights in 10 days' time.

"I plan to speak to Palestinian leaders there, both to find out for myself what is happening, and to let the world know."

He added that he was personally sympathetic to the question of medical aid to the peoples of the occupied territories.

Following press reports and parliamentary questions in Britain, Mellor denied that Britain has got an arms sales office in Tehran but conceded that there is an office there which is authorised to deal with claims for outstanding financial matters linked to the substantial military contracts concluded in the times when the Shah was in power.

EVENTS

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Free Atelier
Over 90 paintings by Palestinian artist Mohammad Boushnaq are on show at the Free Atelier Gallery, Arabian Gulf St. The show has been organised by the Kuwait Society for Formative Arts. Open daily from 8.30 am to 12 noon and 4 to 7 pm, until Dec 22.

Bahrain Modern Art Show
70 modern art paintings by Bahraini artists are on show at the Dahiyat Abdullah Al Salem Gallery. Open daily from 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8 pm, until Dec 28.

FILMS

Indian Film Festival
Indian film Paroma, directed by Aparna Sen and featuring Raakhee in the title role, will be shown at 7.30 pm in the auditorium of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Children are not admitted. For further details contact Cine Club, nr. Indian Embassy, Bneid Al Qar.

British Council
Two children's films -- The Christmas Raccoon and Raccoons on Ice (duration: 50 minutes) will be shown tonight at 6 pm at the British Council, Mansouriya. Admission free but reservations must be made. Tel: 2533204; 2533227.

SOCIAL

Malayalee Drama
Vishwabarathi Theatre, Abbasiya, will present a Malayalee Drama, written by Thomas Perumpilly, on Dec. 25, at the Indian Embassy auditorium.

ASK Alumni Dinner
Friends and graduates of the American School, Kuwait, will hold an alumni dinner at Regency Palace Hotel on Jan. 3. The Arabic buffet will begin at 8 pm. For details phone Mrs Suzy Jones -- 5314568.

ACT
Auditions for ACT's next production, "An Evening of Absurdity" will be held on Dec. 28 (Monday) and Dec. 29 (Tuesday) from 9 pm to 11 pm at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry. For details call 5620332; 5725077.

SPORTS

Kuwait Nomads Rugby Club
Thursday: Youths XV vs Veterans XV at Fintas; kick-off, 3.30 pm. All players must report by 3.15 pm.

• All entries for the What's On column must be handed over personally to Events Section, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

Al Andalus
Born in America
Starring: Mike Norris, Steve Durham
Al Sahiya
Ruthless People
Starring: Danny De Vito
Al Hamra
Li'Adam Kifayah Al Adalah (Arabic)
Starring: Najla Fathi, Yusra, Salah Saadani
Drive-In
Jara Al Wuhoosh (Arabic)
Starring: Noor Al Shariif, Noora, Hussein Fahmi, Mahmoud Abdul Aziz
Al Firdous
Tarana (Hindi)
Starring: Dilip Kumar, Madhubala
Fahad Open-Air
Khooni Mahal (Hindi)
Al-Fahad
Al-Amaliya 42 (Arabic)
Al Jahra
Choose Me
Granada
Al-Fatimat Al Maqalat (Arabic)
Sulabikhat
Ithirayum Kalam (Malayalam)
Al-Jeeb
Strike of Tortured Angels
Ahmedi Drive-In
La'anat Al Maal (Arabic)
Starring: Hatem Zulfikar, Imaan, Yusuf Shaban

PRAYERS

Fajr 5.15 am
Zuhr 11.47
Asr 2.37 pm
Maghreb 4.56
Isha 6.18

VIDEO CORNER

By Brian Hollis

ONE sure way to fame and notoriety these days is by becoming Madam of a high class callgirl operation. Although the laws of the land forbid the offering of sexual services for money, whether in England or America, the average man in the street turns a blind eye, as does the police, except in special circumstances. So, when an escort service's client list includes some of the country's most famous names in politics and in the professions, the police is in a quandary. Go for a bust and reveal all the names? Quietly tell the operator to close up or else? In a recent case in Britain, the police went for prosecution, with the result that Cynthia Page is now a famous author and guest on top chat shows.

The case in America concerning Sidney Biddle Burrows was complicated by the fact that she herself could claim descent from the first settlers in the US, and she was soon dubbed Mayflower Madam by the newspapers. The film of her exploits stars Candice Bergen as the Madam, and Chris Sarandon as her would-be husband. The story is fairly banal -- Burrows is fired from her position as boutique manageress for voicing her opinions too loudly. She accepts a temporary job filling in for a friend as telephone operator for an escort service. When she sees how badly the girls are treated, being obliged to provide extra services no matter how unpleasant their escort, Burrows decides to open her own service, giving the girls much more latitude in their choice of clients. Her former employer gets mad when some of his regulars start drifting her way and tips off the vice squad, with the inevitable result. But, of course, when Burrows' lawyers threaten to call all one thousand clients to the witness stand, the police back down. The story is well told and Bergen makes a fine Madam. Some of her girls aren't too bad either!



Candice Bergen in Mayflower Madam.



A still from A Hobo's Christmas.



• Members of the Chaine de Rotisseurs' Kuwait Chapter recently held their seasonal luncheon in Al Mubarakiah Restaurant at Messilah Beach Hotel. Pictured are some of the guests.

Sure way to fame



Edward Asner plays an escaped convict masquerading as Santa Claus in The Christmas Star.

The Squeeze is a new comedy starring Michael Keaton and Rae Dawn Chong. Keaton's gambling urges get him into all kinds of scrapes -- wanted by his gambling partners for non-payment of debts, by the police as a murder suspect and by the Mafia for having witnessed a murder. The only person who has faith in him is Chong, who works for a lawyer's office which also has claims on him. Unfortunately, the plot is much too complicated, and as I lost track of what was happening, so I lost interest in the film, in spite of some good chases and pyrotechnics.

What's new for Christmas? There are about 20 Christmas titles available, of which the most popular are Santa Claus the Movie, The Night They Saved Xmas, A Christmas Carol, A Christmas Story and some of the Xmas cartoons. This year's new releases are A Hobo's Xmas, The Christmas Star and A Snow White Xmas. A Hobo's Xmas is a 1986 movie about an old man, who in spite of warnings from his friends, decides to return to see his son after 25 years on the road living the life of a hobo. His son Charlie, now a widower with two children, has moved to Salt Lake City, where he is a police officer. Old Charlie is determined to get to know his grandchildren before he dies and is willing to face a bitter-sweet reunion with his son in an attempt to get the family back together.



Burt Lancaster (left) and Alain Delon star in The Leopard.

The Christmas Star is a Disney comedy/drama starring Edward Asner and Rene Auberjonois. An escaped convict, masquerading as Santa Claus is out to recover some hidden loot. When two children mistake the crook for the real Santa, and help him in his search, he not only finds his cache, but also discovers the true meaning of Christmas.

A Snow White Christmas is billed as a magical full length cartoon extravaganza. Snow White's daughter is teamed with seven special friends -- not dwarfs, but giants! The evil queen has returned to ruin Christmas and its up to our heroes to restore the joy and magic of the holiday season. As the full length cartoon is only 50 minutes, we have added another Xmas cartoon called Frosty the Snowman.

Christmas is also a time for watching old classics. One which should not be missed in Akira Kurosawa's Seven Samurai, a three-and-a-half hour epic rated among the best ten films ever made. The story is very familiar as it was later used for The Magnificent Seven. In the 17th century Japan, a poor village, decides to hire Samurai (the wandering mercenaries), to defend their village against bandits. The story is told as a series of pastiches and Kurosawa has obviously drawn heavily from Japanese theatrical tradition. The result, in spite of its length, is totally absorbing.

Another classic by a famous director is Luchino Visconti's version of The Leopard. Adapted from Giuseppe Di Lampedusa's novel, the film stars Burt Lancaster, Claudia Cardinale and Alain Delon. In the 1860's when Garibaldi was trying to unite Italy, a Sicilian nobleman sees the inevitability of change, but does not wish to be part of the new order. The elaborate family saga is painted like an old master with great care and attention to detail, and will please the more thoughtful viewers.

Sgt Pepper -- 20 Years Today provides a trip down memory lane for Beatles fans, and lovers of classical music can relax to Verdi's Requiem.

As Christmas stocking fillers, the Disney cartoon features are doing brisk business as usual, as are the pop video collections. Among the more original presents are The Official History of Liverpool FC, The Living Isles, a wild life documentary about Great Britain, or Elvis 56, a musical documentary about Elvis' greatest year.

The above films are available from VFI, Safeway, Farwania; Video Nauf, Sahiya, Tel: 2432809; or Video Club, Sahiya, Tel: 5724372.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

2.15 Holy Quran
2.30 World News via Satellite
3.30 Hakim Al Aqam: cartoons
4.00 News Summary
4.05 World News via Satellite
4.15 La Ilaha Illallah: historic serial, featuring Yusuf Shabaan, Ragha, Hala Fakher
5.30 Zahoor Min Noor
6.00 Soora Min Al Tabiya: cultural programme
7.00 News Summary
7.05 With Students
7.45 Trading: local show
8.15 Good Evening and Local News
9.00 News in Arabic
9.50 Ghadan Tadaq Al Ajras: daily serial, starring Saleh Saadani, Hina Tharwath, Mohammad Al Arabi.

10.50 Ayyam Aalibal: presented by Marwan Sawaf and featuring Saadoun Jaber, Ahmad Ghanem, Ronzi, Amal Arafah, Marwan Adham.
12.10 News Summary
12.15 World News via Satellite
1.00 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Mickey and Donald: cartoons
6.30 Charles in Charge: "Another Saturday Night." Charles redefines his friendship with his girlfriend.
7.00 Chronicle: "The Gold of Thracian." Documentary
8.00 News in English
8.40 The Wizard: "Never

Give Up." Drug pushers take over an Indian village.
9.30 The World We Live In: "Animal War, Animal Peace."
10.00 Sledge Hammer: "Haven't Gun Will Travel." A group of burglars plan to steal Hammer's gun.
10.30 Falcon Crest: "The Cradle Will Fall." Richard Channing plans a rescue operation to free his kidnapped infant son. Chase is taken prisoner in Oklahoma and Lance seeks his father's help to solve his marriage problems.
12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

FM Services

08.00-08.30 Easy Listening
08.30-09.00 News
09.00-10.00 Easy Listening
10.00-10.30 Songs and Music
10.30-11.00 Easy Listening
11.00-11.30 News
11.30-12.00 Easy Listening
12.00-12.30 Classical Music
12.30-1.00 Easy Listening
1.00-1.30 French Hour
1.30-1.45 Pops
1.45-2.00 Be Our Guest
2.00-2.15 Pops
2.15-2.30 News
2.30-2.45 Pops
2.45-3.00 Famous classical works
3.00-3.15 Easy Listening
3.15-3.30 Instrumental listening

Urdu

1900 Opening/Holy Quran
1910 Behtareen Qaul
1920 Songs
1935 Press Report
1940 Sohe-e-Nau
2000 News in Urdu
2030 Songs
2040 Hidayate Rabbani
2100 Closedown

BBC World Services

0000 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Radio Newswest
30 Omnibus
0100 News Summary followed by Outlook
30 Report on Religion
45 Country Style
0200 World News
09 British Review
15 The A-Z of Hollywood
30 Citizens
0300 World News
09 News about Britain
15 The World Today
30 Discovery (ex 30th A Matter of Honour)
0400 Newswest
30 Natural Selection (ex 30th Being Human)
40 Book Choice
45 Reflections
50 Financial News
0500 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Report on Religion
45 The World Today
0600 Newswest

30 Meridian (ex 30th Christmas Comedy)
0700 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Development '87
0800 World News
09 Reflections
15 Classical Record Review
30 My Music
0900 World News
09 British Press Review
15 The World Today
30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup (ex 23rd)
45 Dave Gelly's Songbook
1000 News Summary followed by Omnibus
30 Quote, Unquote (ex 23rd After Henry; 30th Christmas Comedy)
1100 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Natural Selection (ex 30th Being Human)
25 A Letter from Wales
30 Meridian (ex 30th Development '87)
1200 Radio Newswest
15 Time for Verse
25 The Farming World
45 Sports Roundup (ex 23rd A Christmas Tree)



• American soprano Jane Hawes (above) on Monday performed a selection of classical songs at the Kuwait University Club. She was accompanied on the piano by Prof. Owerkovich from the Higher Institute of Music. Jane is a well-known soprano and presently directs choirs in Kentucky, US, and performs extensively in America.

NIGHT CHEMIST

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Al Salam Pharmacy
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Al Ikhlash Pharmacy
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Makkah St., F'heel.

New Khaitan
Al Tasamah Pharmacy
New Khaitan.

Jahra
Al Noor Pharmacy
Abdul Aziz Nasrullah Bldg., Matafi St.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

THE world is a comedy to those who think, a tragedy to those who feel — Horace Walpole, English statesman (1678-1757).

India aims to attain affluence

By David R. Francis

WASHINGTON: Barber B. Conable, president of the World Bank, has an ambitious goal for the larger Asian countries: eliminate the worst aspects of absolute poverty by the year 2000.

That means doubling the average annual income of individuals in these nations by the end of the century.

Asked if that was possible in India, the country's finance minister, Narain Dutti Tiwari, replied during a recent interview: "It is feasible in certain circumstances. We are for doubling. ... It is an objective worth planning for."

Should that happen, India would move from being a poor nation to a "middle income" country. Or, as Conable put it recently, India and other large Asian nations would move "from poverty to relative affluence."

Whether masses of beggars and other aspects of deep poverty would disappear in India would depend on the distribution of income.

Tiwari spoke of "poverty alleviation" as his government's main goal.

Over the past seven years, India's economy has grown at an annual rate of more than 5 per cent. At that rate, compounded, it would take about 14 years for India's total income to double. But because of its high population growth, growth in per capita income would not keep pace. India, with about 800 million people, has doubled its population in the last 40 years.

This year India has suffered from a drought said to be the worst of the century. The prevalent water shortage has caused a sharp drop in power generation, the death of large number of cattle, and the migration of some villagers. By contrast, three or four states have suffered some severe flooding.

Growth
"Keeping in view the scale of national calamities, the economy is doing well," says Tiwari. He expects "adequate growth" in industry, hit by power shortages, and a "shortfall" in agriculture. Overall, there may be no growth this year, say reports from New Delhi.

The finance minister was pleased that with 23 million tons of grain reserve set aside from earlier good crops, India can continue to feed itself despite a drop in farm output that is estimated at 10 per cent. It has not needed to ask for massive imports of grain from abroad as

it has had to after past crop failures.

He also spoke of various measures taken to help the more than 100 million people hurt by the natural disasters. These include food distribution and a huge programme of food for work. Landless labourers and others work on roads, reforestation, water conservation measures, and other projects in return for food for themselves and their families. Special trains haul water to drought-stricken areas, hoping to avoid large-scale migration of people and animals.

India expects to avoid famine, though malnutrition will remain widespread. The World Bank earlier this month came to the aid of India with extra financing of more than \$500 million in addition to the \$2.5 billion already planned in Bank loans. The money, it is hoped, will help to restore economic growth in India.

Surcharge
To help pay for the relief measures, the government has imposed a 5 per cent surcharge on the income tax paid by those relatively well off and on larger corporations. It has also boosted duties on imported luxury goods and put extra taxes on first class train travel and air fares.

Tiwari said he hopes these measures will raise revenues by about \$1 billion. Some economists charge that India has a bureaucratic, inward-looking economic policy that has slowed growth and initiative.

The finance minister describes India's policy as one of "maximum self reliance." This policy, he said, is helping India in its current economic emergency.

However, Tiwari admitted that as a result of this economic policy much of Indian industry is not technologically up-to-date. However, he said, the government is now attempting to modernise the large chunk of heavy industry owned by the government through "massive infusions" of funds.

"The results will be seen in the next two or three years," he says. "Indeed, they are already there." Some observers heap praise on Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi for his efforts to deregulate the economy and permit greater free enterprise. Others say he is not moving fast enough.

Tiwari argues that a developing nation like India needs a "mixed economy," with large amounts of government, as well as private, industry. "You have to have some planned investment of resources," with the government setting priorities. The Christian Science Monitor.

Democratic hopefuls woo minority voters

Jackson leads in the fight for black votes

By Lux Overbea

BOSTON: Conceded — the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson has more black support in his campaign for president than all the other Democratic Party hopefuls combined.

Contested — black voters will automatically give their votes to Jackson because he is of their race.

All five announced hopefuls in the 1988 Democratic Party primaries have appointed black campaign workers in key positions and have expressed interest in capturing the black vote. They know that blacks cast 20 per cent of the Mondale-Ferraro votes in the 1984 presidential election.

Two candidates, Gov. Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts and Rep. Gephardt of Missouri, have mounted sophisticated campaigns to woo minority voters. Sen. Albert Gore of Tennessee, Sen. Paul Simon of Illinois, and

former Gov. Bruce Babbitt of Arizona, have named key blacks to reach out to minority voters as well as take on other duties.

Governor Dukakis has the forces of the "Warren commission" working for him. Named for Joseph Warren, a political supporter for more than 15 years and also a personal friend, the commission consists of a team of black volunteers with tentacles reaching into nearly every major black community in the nation.

Recruited

Representative Gephardt of Missouri has recruited Donna Brasile, one of the nation's most active young black political workers, to organise minority support for his primary campaign.

Senator Gore has recruited a fellow Tennessean, Thurgood Marshall Jr., son of the US Supreme Court justice, to bring minority voters into his camp. Arizona's Babbitt has lined up



Jesse Jackson

youthful Vada Manager, one of his veteran black supporters, to help in his campaign.

Senator Simon is building a team around Sterling Henry to beef up his minority outreach for voters.

"Of course I know Jesse (Jackson) is the leading candidate in the general polls and among my people, but that doesn't mean he's as good as nominated," says

Dr. Warren, an administrator at Northeastern University. "We are offering Dukakis as an alternative. Our group is certain that when people look at the record, they will see our governor as a very acceptable choice."

The Warren "commission" has adopted a strategic plan that covers every phase of a political campaign from recruiting workers to raising funds, all designed to make Dukakis a "household name" among blacks. This includes an integrated operation "with blacks clearly in charge."

Crisis

When Dukakis was in crisis over the Biden tapes, he hit the front page of the Oct 1 edition of New England's largest and most influential black weekly, the Bay State Banner of Boston.

The governor was featured in a photograph presenting a \$1 million cheque to Ronald Homer, president of the black Boston Bank of Commerce, to be

deposited in selected black banks throughout the nation. The cheque represented 12.5 per cent of the \$8 million the Dukakis troops had raised.

Ms Brasile supported Jackson in 1984, but says, "Congressman Gephardt is a nice white man who listens to me."

"I never had a thought of supporting him when I first met him, but he was the first politician to actually hear what I had to say, even when I talked about affirmative action. This was even before I went to work for him."

She is field director of his campaign. "I'm not here just to campaign for black votes," she says.

Break
Young Marshall made his first major pitch for Senator Gore at the July national convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People. When the NAACP had limited the time of candidates appearing on programme, Mar-

shall arranged for Gore to break his schedule to fly to New York City and speak to the NAACP. "This man is a fair-minded public official," Marshall says. "I have observed his work in Tennessee, and I like what I see."

Vada Manager has worked with Babbitt since he was governor of Arizona. "He named me to the state college board while I was still in college," he says. "When the governor left office, he retained me on his personal staff. He named me to his campaign staff when he decided to run for president."

"My work is not limited to black voters," says Henry of his assignment with the Simon campaign. "I am director of the leadership contact project. Our goal is simple. We touch bases with leaders in every phase of American life, blacks, women, Hispanic, farmers, everybody. We want the voters to know what Paul Simon stands for."

Henry is associate director for political affairs for the Simon campaign with offices in Washington. The Christian Science Monitor.



AMERICAN PILOT SHOT DOWN OVER NICARAGUA. — NEWS ITEM

Sinhalese extremists interrogated

Sri Lanka fights violence

By Iqbal Athas

TISSAMAHARAMA, Sri Lanka, (UPI): Blindfolded by their own shirts, the young men sat cross-legged on the grass lawn of a government bungalow in this town about 100 miles (160 km) southeast of Colombo.

A scream from a nearby building shattered an uneasy silence.

"Don't assault me, I will tell you the truth," an agony-torn voice cried out in Sinhala. Silence followed the man's decision to confess.

One-by-one the blindfolded youths, all suspected of being Sinhalese extremists, were taken to the same building for questioning.

The interrogations are part of government efforts to stem a wave of violence in southern Sri Lanka that has claimed 100 lives in the past three months.

The anti-government violence, which is being blamed on Sinhalese extremists in the outlawed Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna, or Peoples' Liberation Front, has brought to the south some of the terror that a four-year civil war wreaked in the nation's northern provinces.

In southern towns like Tissamaharama, Hambantota and Wellawaya, regional leaders of the ruling United National Party have been killed with bullets and razor blades.

Village officials who disregard letters demanding they resign are found dead. Local people suspected of spying for government

security forces have been shot, their bodies hung on lamp posts as a warning.

Police have reported about 100 deaths in southern Sri Lanka in the past three months.

Opposed

The JVP is bitterly opposed to the July 29 peace accord between India and Sri Lanka aimed at ending the civil war between the Buddhist Sinhalese-dominated government and Tamil guerrillas seeking independence for the north and east of the Indian Ocean island.

The accord grants limited autonomy to the country's minority Hindu Tamils, who claim discrimination by the majority Sinhalese community. Some 25,000 Indian troops are in the north and east, trying to force the Tamil rebels to disarm and accept the agreement.

President Junius Jayewardene has said some 20,000 Sri Lankan troops who were stationed in the north have been redeployed against the threat posed by the "terrorists from the south."

He has blamed the JVP for an Aug 18 bomb attack in parliament that killed two people, including government minister. Jayewardene narrowly escaped the blast.

The President banned the Front in July 1983, alleging it was involved in the country's worst ethnic violence between the majority Sinhalese and the minority Tamils.

The Sinhalese account for 75 per cent of Sri Lanka's 15 million population, while the Tamils

make up 12 per cent.

The increased anti-government activity in the south has changed the face of many towns and cities, as men and material from the long-embattled north move south to combat the rebels.

Inundated

In Embilipitiya, Kolonna and Sooriyakandana, the Sri Lankan Army is everywhere. Tissamaharama has been inundated by Air Force men and equipment while the special task force commands of the police have moved into Hambantota.

All the military men stationed in these southern towns are keeping a high profile.

Armed with standard M-16 automatic rifles, troops patrol the streets of the southern town and cities in spanning new jeeps and armoured troop carriers.

But even with the latest infusion of government troops, it is impossible to guard every person identified as a potential target for the Sinhalese extremists. The security forces have turned to arming civilians with shotguns, forming local "vigilance groups."

The troops also have begun rounding up hundreds of young men, who are interrogated to determine if they have ties with anti-government rebels.

Miscreants

Col Lakshman Algam, military coordinating officer for Embilipitiya, which security officials describe as "hotbed of subversive activity, said about 5 per cent of all those rounded up turn out to be "miscreants."

Gorbachev may meet Pope in 1988

An atheist in the court of Pope John Paul II

By Victor L. Simpson

VATICAN CITY, (AP): An expected visit to Italy by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev could set the stage for a historic meeting between the Pope and the leader of the East bloc.

In recent days, the Soviets told Italian officials that Gorbachev plans to visit Italy. Although no date has been set, Italian officials say it may take place in the first half of 1988.

Gorbachev could visit Rome and simply ignore the Vatican, as top communist Chinese officials have done. But unlike China, the Soviet Union has maintained high-level contacts with the Vatican during the last two decades and Roman Catholicism plays a greater role in Gorbachev's country than it does on mainland China.

Vatican officials say Pope John Paul II would welcome a meeting with the Soviet leader to discuss religious freedom.

church-state relations in Eastern Europe and a papal visit to the Soviet Union.

They insist, however, that the subject did not come up during talks last Friday between a Soviet envoy and the Vatican's secretary of state, Cardinal Agostino Casaroli.

Asked about the possibility, the Soviet ambassador to Italy, Nikolai Lunovok, said only, "we shall see."

Met

The Vatican has no formal diplomatic relations with Moscow, but Andrei Gromyko, now the Soviet president, met five times with Pope Paul IV and twice with John Paul while serving as foreign minister.

The last audience, in 1985, came after a period of particularly bitter Vatican-Soviet relations during which the Soviet news media accused the Pope and the church of interfering in John Paul's native Poland.

John Paul on a number of occasions has said he would like

to visit his flock in the Soviet Union, specifically mentioning Lithuania, which has an estimated 2 million Roman Catholics, and the Ukraine, where the Ukrainian Catholic church was brutally suppressed by Josef Stalin.

It was dictator Stalin who cynically assessed the Vatican's influence, asking: How many divisions does the Pope have?

Operating

Ukrainian exiles claim that as many as 3.5 million Catholics live in the Ukraine with about 10 bishops operating secretly. There is also a large bloc of Catholics in Latvia, home of the only resident cardinal in the Soviet Union.

The Pope said Moscow vetoed his request to visit Lithuania and John Paul ruled out a "political visit" limited to Moscow.

Despite speculation of an invitation from the Russian orthodox church for celebrations next year for the millennium of

Christianity's arrival in what is now the Soviet Union, Vatican officials see little movement on this.

Beyond the historical significance of an audience between the leader of the world's 810 million Catholics and the head of a party that disparages religion, the Vatican hopes that a Pope-Gorbachev meeting could produce results.

Freedom

"The Pope could not but bring up the issue of religious freedom," said a Vatican official, speaking on condition of anonymity. He noted that the need for governments to assure such freedom was a major point in John Paul's recent peace message addressed to world leaders.

Another issue is Eastern Europe, where the condition of the church varies from country to country. The church plays a powerful role in Poland, for example, but in Czechoslovakia the Pope says its operations are in a "sad state."

Thousands die every year on Asia's overcrowded ferries

By Mark Fisher

HONG KONG, (Reuters): Thousands of ferry passengers drown every year in Asia's poorer countries, where chronic overcrowding, disregard for safety and lack of repair can turn ships into swiftly sinking death-traps.

Sunday's disaster in the Philippines, where more than 2,000 people may have died in the world's worst peacetime shipping accident, follows a pattern of tragedies there and in Indonesia, China and the Indian subcontinent.

In Bangladesh, where battered river ferries jam-packed with peasants are the main form of transport, nearly 2,000 people die every year in accidents, officials say.

Overloading by greedy operators partly caused the nation's worst accident in June 1986, when 600 people went down with the double-deck ferry Samia when it capsized in the Meghna River. Lack of radar and weather

data and poor repairs also make sinkings a regular occurrence.

The Bangladesh government has asked the International Maritime Organisation to advise on averting any more disasters. Water transport regulations framed in 1937 during British rule are woefully inadequate.

Drowned

In India, more than 50 people drowned when a boat sank in the sacred Ganges River in the eastern state of Bihar on August 27. Ferries are a major form of transport, especially in north India where the Ganges, Indus and Brahmaputra rivers flow.

More than 500 people have died this year in Indonesia in at least 15 passenger boat accidents, many in the seas around the world's largest archipelago, officials there say.

On the same day that the Dona Paz sank carrying passengers to Manila for Christmas from the central Philippines after colliding with another ship, an Indonesian sea ferry sank in a storm leaving no trace of the 55 people aboard.

In 1981, Indonesia's state-run Tampanas II ferry sank in the Java Sea after fire broke out on board, killing at least 660 people.

A court inquiry found that the boat had wrongly been given a sea-worthiness certificate and may have been illegally carrying more than 1,000 people.

Officials said fires sometimes broke out on ferries as meals were cooked on deck. Boats, some travelling overnight in rough weather, are often overloaded with animals and luggage as well as people.

Capsized

In a rare accident in Thailand, at least 21 people drowned when a ferry travelling to the resort island of Ko Samui hit rocks and capsized in a midnight squall in April.

Dilapidated ferries plying rivers in Burma, whose poverty can lead to a lack of repair, are often filled to bursting with ragged porters lugging sacks of grain and women weighed down by garden produce.

In October a ferry capsized

when passengers rushed to one side to avoid a squall and scores of people drowned.

Over 200 people died in the two worst ferry accidents this year in China, where ferries are a dangerous period as people travel across the country to spend time at home.

An overcrowded ferry crossing the Yellow River in April was flipped over by a wave, killing at least 100 people. Four weeks later a ferry crossing the Yangtze River in east China was rammed by a tug, drowning at least 105.

Celebrating

In May, 27 students celebrating the Dragon Boat festival drowned in the Yellow River. Their boat, fit for only 25 passengers, had 60 people, nine bicycles and 15 goats crammed aboard.

Richer Asian countries, where safety rules are tighter and better enforced and whose goods roads are often an alternative to water transport, have an enviable safety record.

Japanese officials said no ferry accidents involving more than 10

deaths had occurred in their seafaring, among the world's busiest, since the 1960s.

Safety regulations were tightened after at least 1,155 people drowned when a ferry sank near the northern island of Hokkaido in 1954.

In South Korea more than 60 died in June on a chartered ferry when fire broke out in the engine room, but the sinking was an isolated incident. In Hong Kong and Australia, officials said there had been no serious accidents for years.

Disasters

Major maritime disasters since 1900:

- June 15, 1904, the General Slocum, an excursion steamer, burned in the East River in New York City, killing 1,030.
- April 14-15, 1912, Titanic, the British steamer hit an iceberg in the North Atlantic, killing 1,503.
- Sept 26, 1912, Kichemaru, a steamer that went down off the Japanese coast, killing an estimated 1,000.
- May 29, 1914, the Empress

of Ireland, a British steamer, sank after colliding with a Norwegian ship in the St. Lawrence River, with 1,014 dying.

● May 7, 1915, the British steamer Lusitania was torpedoed by a German submarine off the coast of Ireland with 1,198 deaths.

● Feb 26, 1916, the French cruiser Provence sank in the Mediterranean, killing 3,100.

● Aug 29, 1916, Hsin Yu, a Chinese steamer, went down off the Chinese coast, killing an estimated 1,000.

● Dec 6, 1917, the Mont Blanc, a French munitions ship, and the Imo, a Belgian steamer, collided in Halifax Harbour, resulting in 1,600 fatalities.

● March 18, 1921, Hong Kong, a steamer, wrecked in the South China Sea with a loss of life of 1,000.

● Dec 3, 1948, a Chinese refugee ship, the Kiangya, wrecked south of Shanghai, killing an estimated 1,100.

● Sept 26, 1954, the Toya Maru, a Japanese ferry, went down, killing 1,172.

Honduran aid flows to Contras

By Allister Doyle

TEGUCIGALPA, (Reuters): Honduras' continuing support for Nicaraguan rebels, barred under a Central American peace treaty signed in August, has come under increasing domestic criticism.

Apart from some cosmetic changes — the rebels' press office here has been closed — Honduras' strategy of helping the US-funded Contra rebels until it is certain of democratic reforms in Nicaragua has not altered.

"Honduras hasn't complied with its commitment to cut off support for the rebels," a Latin American diplomat said. "This could become a major stumbling block to the whole peace plan."

Some sections of the military as well as some officials in the Foreign Ministry are urging their superiors to drop their support for the rebels in accordance with the peace agreement.

They argue that Nicaragua has moved toward compliance, that renewed US aid to the Contras seems unlikely with a Democrat-controlled Congress, and that Honduras risks being held partly to blame if the peace plan collapses.

Lead
But President Jose Azcona, armed forces chief General Humberto Regalado and Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras lead the rebels' backers in Honduras.

a partial amnesty for political prisoners and begun indirect ceasefire talks with the rebels.

But last week Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said his Sandinistas would retain power in the country even if they lost an election and Defence Minister Humberto Ortega outlined plans to arm 600,000 people by 1995.

"Government and military leaders here believe Nicaragua is making only token reforms in the hope of cutting off US aid to the Contras," one Western envoy said. "But by failing to eject the rebels, Honduras is giving Nicaragua an excuse for not complying."

Azcona, who signed the peace treaty, denies complicity with the rebels, but admits some cross the long 700-km (450 mile) border into Honduras. He says it would cost \$250 million a year to keep them out.

Inhuman
The government says it would be inhuman to force out the Contras before there is a ceasefire in Nicaragua. But the Sandinistas say no ceasefire is possible until the United States and Honduras stop backing the Contras.

Estimates of the number of Contra troops in Honduras range from several hundred to 3,000, out of a 12,000-strong rebel army.

The peace plan calls for a ceasefire, an end to foreign backing of insurgents and democratic reforms to come into force simultaneously.

"The peace plan has come further than almost anyone expected. If it founders, it's likely to be over rival interpretations of what 'simultaneous' means," one official predicted.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

New oil finds may bring extra \$20m a year

MUSCAT, Dec 22, (Reuters): Several newly-discovered oil wells could earn Oman an extra \$20 million a year, an oil firm said yesterday.

Four sites in the south, one in central Oman, and up to three others could come on stream by the end of 1990 with government permission, the chief geologist with Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), Hans Varenkamp, told Reuters.

He said the potential flow at each site ranged from 75 to more than 2,000 barrels per day (BPD).

With an average output of 500 bpd, \$20 million more would flow into the Omani treasury at present oil prices, he said.

Discovery
"The lifespan of a discovery would normally last for 20 years or more. Output will be determined in line with the good and sensible development of Oman's long-term interests."

The announcement came a month before the first intensive search for offshore oil is due to start in the waters between Masirah Island and the South Yemen border.

Varenkamp said no firm commitment to develop the new onshore sites would be made until the reserves of each had been assessed but "in practice we will almost certainly develop most of them within one or two years."

"Precise output will depend on consultation with the government, which will be guided by its partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council and to an extent by Opec."

Oman is not a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries but decided earlier this year to keep its output at 565,000 barrels per day to support the organisation moves to stabilise oil prices.

Brazil unveils measures to increase taxes

BRASILIA, Brazil, Dec 22, (AP): The government yesterday announced measures to hike taxes just three days after Brazil's finance minister resigned in a dispute with President Jose Sarney over the tax reform.

Starting Jan 1, tax rates will be adjusted to inflation, now running at about 15 per cent per month. In other measures, workers with more than one job will pay a tax on the second and only those earning less than \$760 yearly were to be exempt from taxes, according to acting Finance Minister Mailson Ferreira de Nobrega.

Measures
The measures were a watered-down version of a fiscal package proposed by former Finance Minister Luiz Carlos Bresser Pereira and designed to cut the budget deficit running at 6 per cent of the \$300 billion GNP.

On Friday, Bresser Pereira resigned saying he and Sarney disagreed over what he called a "critical" proposal to tax capital earnings — interest, profits and dividends.

The measures were criticised by labour leaders and businessmen alike. Business leader Mario Amato told the nation's largest private TV network, Globo, the measures were "trivial", while a union organiser said they would mean higher taxes for a larger portion of workers.

EEC farmers' income drops 3.4 pc

BRUSSELS, Dec 22, (AP): Farmers in the 22-nation European Economic Community will earn 3.4 per cent less this year than last, mainly because of lower prices and stagnating production, the EEC statistical office reported yesterday.

According to Eurostat, the deterioration of farmers' earnings in real terms was shown as an EEC-wide phenomenon, but varied from country to country.

The study said the main reason for the anticipated decline is the fall in the overall value of farm production.

The sharpest drop in real net income was recorded in West Germany, 17.2 per cent, followed by Denmark, 10.8 per cent; Italy, 6.4 per cent; Belgium, 7.2 per cent; France 3.2 per cent and Britain, 2.7 per cent.

Ireland has recorded the highest rate of increase of about 11.7 per cent, followed by Spain 7.7 per cent and the Netherlands 2.7 per cent.

The report noted farmers' incomes "very often" fluctuate from year to year, rising sharply one year and declining the next.

Opec's makeshift accord weakens price stability

Pricing mechanism beginning to break down

NEW YORK, Dec 22, (UPI): Several scenarios for lower oil prices are emerging in the aftermath of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' inconclusive year-end meeting in Vienna.

The organisation's six days of talks failed to produce any concrete measures on production to reduce the global oil surplus or bolster prices, which have declined steadily in recent weeks because the markets had rightly anticipated that Opec would not be able to resolve its problems.

Fought
The group merely extended its current production quotas and \$18-a-barrel benchmark price through the first half of 1988, a victory of sorts for Saudi Arabia, which had fought to maintain official prices in face of weak demand.

The 13-nation organisation also could not persuade the UAE to curb its output, nor put an end to price discounting by several members.

Iran, the most vocal of the price hawks, failed to get the organisation to agree to a \$2-a-barrel price increase mainly because of Saudi opposition. But Tehran succeeded in denying Iraq its enemy in the seven-year-old Gulf war, a production quota equal to its own.

"So something has to give, either the price or volume. They can't have both," said John Lichtblau, president of Petroleum Industry Research Associates Inc. in New York.

The pricing mechanism

already has started to come apart.

Oil traded on world markets plummeted by more than \$2-a-barrel in the four days after Opec announced its makeshift accord Dec 12.

Ed Krapels, president of the Energy Security Analysis Inc. in Washington, DC, sees even deeper price erosion in the coming months.

He said the 15.06 million barrel-a-day ceiling the Opec ministers agreed to in Vienna, combined with Iraq's current production of 2.5 million to three million barrels a day, will simply put too much oil on the market already bloated with inventories.

Krapels said this scenario, seen in the context of Saudi Arabia's renunciation of its role as the market balancer within Opec, will cause a major price drop.

In the past Saudi Arabia, Opec's largest and most influential producer, was able to defend the organisation's prices by adjusting its own production.

Destiny
But the Saudis, hurt by the erosion of its own market share and unable to curb excess output by other members, abandoned the so-called swing producer role in 1986.

The other serious threat to price stability is the return to what is known as netback pricing.

One of the main causes of the 1986 oil price collapse was netback pricing, which links the price of the crude to the value of

petroleum products refined from each barrel.

Since most oil shipments take several weeks to reach their destination, refiners face the risk of serious price fluctuations while the crude still is at sea.

Under netback arrangements, the refiner pays the prevailing price after the oil has landed at its destination. Netbacking is especially useful when prices are declining.

"The absence of a swing producer will become the biggest psychological force in the market," Krapels said in his latest forecast. "To move its oil, Saudi Arabia and other long-haul producers may resort to a new variant of netback prices."

Netbacking
Krapels said with Opec production at more than 18 million barrels a day and new versions of netbacking, "the danger of a price collapse is at its highest since December 1985."

Lichtblau said the lack of a swing producer means all Opec members will jointly have to assume that role, "which is not likely."

He said some Opec producers continue to offer discounts that represent a departure from the official benchmark price. Netbacking will mean the ultimate break up of prices, he said.

"We have not yet seen any evidence of netbacking, but it might come. If it does, it could destroy the system," Lichtblau said.

Philip Verleger, oil economist at the Institute for International

Economics in Washington, DC, said production cheating has also angered Opec's members and this could trigger price weakness.

However, Verleger maintained the continuing growth in the world economy and sustained demand for oil will keep the organisation from disintegrating.

Ceiling
He pointed out that Opec produced about 19.2 million barrels daily between July and October while its ceiling called for only 16.6 million barrels daily but prices did not decline significantly.

"The real source of strength for the organisation is the demand, which is about 500,000 barrels a day over the second half of 1986," Verleger said.

He said the demand figures represent actual consumption and not the inventory build-up that has occurred as a buffer against a possible Arabian Gulf oil cutoff.

"Everything is good in the macroeconomics side and, therefore, there will be more demand for oil," he said.

But Verleger also warned that prices could weaken substantially if countries like Kuwait and the UAE decide to increase production or netbacking practice resumes.

Sanford Margoshes, an analyst at Shearson Lehman Brothers Inc. in New York, said the market perception in the aftermath of the Opec meeting is that the organisation is now a

political, not economic, forum and that every producer will continue to cheat.

"It is hoped, however, that the UAE especially Abu Dhabi and perhaps Dubai will cut back," he said.

Reductions
Margoshes said another market perception that inventory reductions are essential to bring supply and demand into balance may already be underway.

"That is why prices have started falling. The question is where do we go from here. There is already a rumour which I cannot confirm that the Saudis are resorting to netbacking," Margoshes said.

"We believe, however, that the purpose of this form of discounting is to preserve rather than increase the Saudi market share."

In 1986 the Saudis undertook netbacking to increase their market share, he said, but now the kingdom only wants to be able to sell its 4.3 million barrel-a-day share of Opec's daily production.

Margoshes said he expects Saudi Arabia to make a "modified netback arrangement" with the four US partners in the Arabian-American Oil Co.

Intent
"Right now I don't think it is their intent to lead the market and certainly not to destroy it," Margoshes said there could be some more downward pressure on prices in the short term, but the "lion's share of the adjustment has already taken place."

Congress passes deficit-cutting package

WASHINGTON, Dec 22, (Reuters): Congress approved bills early today to cut the US budget deficit by \$76 billion over two years and now only President Reagan's signature is needed to enact them into law.

After some bruising political fights over the contents of the two measures — especially over aid to US-backed Nicaraguan Contra rebels — the Democratic-controlled Senate and House of Representatives passed compromise bills aimed at satisfying Reagan's objections and demands.

Reagan, a Republican who insisted upon and won inclusion of \$8.1 billion in aid for the Contras, was expected to sign the bills into law.

Emotional
Although the deficit package came in response to unrest on the financial markets after the global stock market crash in mid-October, the most emotional debate as the US headed towards

a presidential election year in 1988 dealt with the continued funding for the US-backed insurgents.

The \$600 billion spending bill for the entire US government barely passed in the House of Representatives with a vote of 209 in favour, 208 against. It had an easier ride in the Senate, passing on a vote of 59 to 30.

"Our vote is in protest of a mistaken policy in Central America," said representative Silvio Conte, a Massachusetts Republican.

Aid
Representative Henry Hyde, a Republican from Illinois, defended the aid by saying: "There is tyranny in our front yard, and we can't just deplore it, we have to do something about it."

The aid makes up only a small part of the package, which includes a bill containing tax increases and spending cuts over two years and another providing \$600 billion in funding for most

government programmes through September.

"This is an achievement of which we can be proud," Senate Democratic leader Robert Byrd of West Virginia said of the overall package.

Senator Pete Domenici, a Republican from New Mexico and key negotiator in seeking a compromise with the White House, said: "This will be the most significant reduction that we've ever had in the history of the budgetary process."

In the first bill \$23 billion in new taxes will be raised in two years, with \$9 billion coming in 1988 and another \$14 billion in 1989. Most of the tax burden would fall on companies.

Spending
It also includes a series of other steps, including spending cuts, asset sales and improved tax collection.

In what marked another victory for Reagan, congressional Democrats agreed at the last

minute to drop demands that a provision be added onto the spending bill enacting the so-called "fairness doctrine". This would require broadcasters to supply equal time to individuals with opposing viewpoints.

Reagan earlier in the year vetoed a bill to enact the doctrine and vowed he would use his veto power again if the proposal resurfaced in any form.

Khorafi to visit Cairo

KUWAIT'S Finance Minister, Jassem Al Khorafi, will pay an official visit to Cairo during the first week of January.

During his visit of several days he will hold discussions with Egyptian officials about Kuwait's investments in Egypt, and ways of further consolidating relations, particularly in the economic and financial sectors.

Strong Japan economy set to grow robust 3.8 pc in '88

TOKYO, Dec 22, (Reuters): Japan's robust economy, apparently unaffected by the rest of the world's economic woes, will grow strongly next year, the government predicted today.

The official economic forecast said Gross National Product, the total value of all goods and services generated by the economy, will grow at 3.8 per cent in fiscal 1988, starting next April 1, after 3.7 per cent this year.

The prediction confounds the pessimists, who a year ago were predicting a severe impact on Japan from the rising yen and threats of US trade protectionism against its exports.

Struggled
The economy has also struggled off any disastrous effects from the world stockmarket collapse in October, in sharp contrast to West Germany's economy, which the Organisation for Economic Cooperation Development (OECD) today said would grow at only 1.5 per cent next year, slower than earlier forecasts.

BA triumphs in 6-month takeover battle

LONDON, Dec 22, (Reuters): British Airways (BA) has triumphed in a six-month battle for control of ailing British Caledonian (Bcal), fending off a challenge from a Scandinavian rival with a £250 million (\$455 million) bid.

BA announced yesterday it had acquired a 50.02 per cent controlling share in Bcal, boosting its European and intercontinental network in the face of growing competition from US carriers.

Aviation experts said Bcal would probably be fully absorbed into the British Airways structure.

The formation of the British "super-airline" marks the end of a long struggle to develop British Caledonian into a second force in British commercial aviation.

The domestic sector will lead growth with a strong performance, the government said.

Over the past year, the government has set in motion a series of measures aimed at boosting domestic demand and cutting back on exports after Japan's trading partners rebelled against its ever-increasing trade surpluses.

As a result, the government forecast the trade surplus will at last begin to decline in 1988, dropping to \$81 billion from \$92 billion this year.

The government forecast assumed an exchange rate of 133 yen to the dollar and an average oil price of \$18.50 per barrel.

With oil supply continuing to outstrip demand, and an expected improvement in the large US budget and trade deficits next year helping the weak dollar, both assumptions seem reasonable.

For once, private economists agree with the official forecast, as fact the government sees as important because the private

research institutes are usually much more sanguine about the economy's real prospects.

Figures released by 27 private institutions show growth averaging around 3.7 per cent for 1988. Strong growth is also better news for those looking for a job. The government said unemployment would average 2.7 per cent in 1988, down from an expected 2.8 per cent in the current tax year.

Dumping
Meanwhile, a top Japanese trade official disputed today US charges of widespread dumping of Japanese products in the American market.

"The dumping argument (is) ... not well defined," trade vice minister Makoto Kuroda told reporters.

US Commerce Secretary William Verity has repeatedly accused Japan of widespread dumping, arguing that exporters here have only raised prices in America by about half of that called for by the steep rise of the yen.

said the board unanimously recommended it to shareholders as the best possible way out of the company's financial plight.

The merger between Bcal and BA, the national carrier privatised by the Conservative government, had been approved earlier by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

But the general stockmarket collapse in October effectively cut the value of the initial BA offer for Bcal from £237 million (\$433 million) to £147 million (\$260 million).

The SAS bid then sparked fears that Britain could lose sought-after franchises for overseas routes to foreign competition. But it also served to drive up the BA offer beyond the initial level.

World Business Summary

Dutch flower exports in '87 hit record levels

AMSTERDAM, Dec 22, (Reuters): Dutch flower exports in 1987 hit record levels but a sharply lower dollar and falling oil prices depressed sales to the United States and the Middle East, an industry official said today. Flower sales from the Netherlands, the world's biggest exporter, would total more than four billion guilders (\$2.2 billion) for the first time in 1987, Henk Rijken of the Dutch flower wholesale organisation said. "The most popular flowers are roses, tulips, carnations, and chrysanthemums," Rijken told Reuters today. Dutch flower gardens use a sophisticated transport and auction system which has a bouquet of roses to New York less than a day after the flowers are cut in the Netherlands. Rijken said sales to the United States, the fifth most important foreign market for Dutch flowers, fell 16 per cent this year because of the lower dollar. "We had a lot of tulips on offer in spring and the dollar hit usually strong demand for tulips in the US, so prices went down here," he said. But as Christmas approached, prices rose as usual, he added.

Flower sales to Gulf countries such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain fell by 20 to 40 per cent this year because falling oil prices hurt demand there, he said.

More than 40 per cent of Dutch flower exports went to West Germany. Other leading markets were Britain, Italy and France.

Governments resisted new protectionism: GATT chief

GENEVA, Dec 22, (Reuters): Arthur Dunkel, director-general of the GATT, pressed governments today for resisting the temptation during this year's crash on financial markets to slap on new protectionist measures.

"Memories worked," Dunkel told a news briefing. "Everyone was reminded that in the 1930s the troubles on the financial markets were very serious, but what really unleashed a crisis was governmental recourse to protectionist measures." He added: "The stock market crash perhaps also highlighted the fact that those who stressed the weakness of investment in the real economy were right." Dunkel said he believed the crash underlined the importance of the current 105-nation Uruguay round of free trade negotiations under the auspices of GATT — the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. "Borders must stay open," he said. "Because if they do not stay open, the redistribution of demand on the global level can not take place."



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5 Basic cassette recorder with edit function TCM-11 KD. 13,900	6 Down-to-business Walkman WM-31 KD. 15,000	7 8-band reception in a palm-size design ICF-5100 KD. 31,000	8 Compact portable with 9-band equalizer ICF-7600 AW KD. 34,000
9 4-band radio cassette recorder CFM-140 KD. 14,975	10 3-band radio stereo cassette recorder with Walkman in-jack CFS-235S KD. 18,000	11 4-band radio stereo cassette recorder CFS-210S KD. 22,450	12 4-band radio cassette recorder with 5-band equalizer CFS 1000S KD. 27,000
13 FM radio with speaker for Walkman SRS-F20 KD. 21,900	14 7-band radio cassette recorder WA-6000 KD. 42,500	15 Microcassette recorder M-12 KD. 18,750	16 World's smallest fashion camera M-110 KD. 4,000

Best regards and a Happy New Year!

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WORLD STOCK MARKETS

ARAB TIMES, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1987

LONDON
(Alpha Stocks)

NAME	LAST	110/0
ABBEY LIFE	243/0	184/0
ALD LYONS	340/0	317/0
ANSTRAD	111/0	342/0
ARGYLL GP	190/4	347/0
ASDA MFI	163/0	
A B FOODS	303/0	
BAA PP	95/0	
BTR	270/0	
BAT INDS	350/0	
BARCLAYS	443/0	
BASS	820/0	
BEAZER	173/0	
BEECHAM	450/0	
BET ORD	228/0	
BICC PLC	340/0	
BLUE ARRY	100/0	
BLUE CIRC	450/0	
BOC GP	405/0	
BOOTS CO	253/0	
BP INDS	263/6	
BR CORN	319/0	
BR AIRWAY	155/0	
BR AEROSP	343/0	
BR GAS PP	128/0	
B.P.	250/0	
B.P. NEW	71/0	
BR TELCOM	223/0	
BRIT OIL	410/0	
BUNZL	167/0	
BURMAN OL	438/0	
BURTON	220/0	
CABLE&WIR	335/0	
CADBURYS	250/0	
COATS VTY	287/6	
CONS UNI	357/0	
CONS GOLD	930/0	
COOKSON	530/0	
COURTAULD	347/0	
DALGETY	313/0	
DEE CP	216/4	
DIXONS	214/0	
ENG CHINA	395/0	
ENTER OIL	271/0	
FERRANTI	80/0	
FISONS	259/0	
GEN ALEC	845/0	
GEN ECC	166/0	
GLAXO	990/0	
GRANADA	301/0	
GLOBE	130/0	
GRAND MET	450/0	
GUS A	120/0	
GUARD RYL	885/0	
GKN	300/0	
GUINNESS	283/0	
HMMERSON A	530/0	
HANSON	135/0	
HAKER SID	456/0	
HAWLEY	98/0	
HILLSDOWN	285/0	

LONDON
(Beta Stocks)

NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
A.B. ELECT	345/0	350/0
AFV PLC	130/0	130/0
AARWSON	116/0	116/0
AAH HDLG	308/0	309/0
ACATOS+HT	435/0	435/0
ADDISON G	102/0	102/0
ADVEST GP	268/0	268/0
ALISA	143/0	141/0
ALEX WRKW	163/0	163/0
ALLIANCE	733/0	728/0
ALD COLL	123/0	122/0
ALD PLAN	43/0	43/0
AMARI PLC	132/0	133/0
AMER PLC	308/0	307/0
AMER TRUS	109/0	110/0
AMERSHAM	425/0	422/0
ANGIA TV	335/0	338/0
ANSBACHER	72/0	71/0
U-APP HOL	330/0	330/0
APPLYARD	330/0	333/0
APRICOT	93/0	93/0
ARMSTRONG	139/0	138/0
ANGLO O'S	358/0	356/0
AQUACULTUM	270/0	270/0
ASHLEY L	123/0	123/0
AUTO SEC	250/0	250/0
AVIS EUR	296/0	296/0
AVON RUBB	635/0	635/0
BBA GP	149/0	150/0
BSG INTL	68/0	68/0
BAILL JAP	395/0	393/0
BANKER IT	63/0	63/0
BF OF SCO	513/0	514/0
DAMSON IN	211/0	212/0
DAVY CP	144/0	144/0
DE-DEMY	105/0	105/0
DRG PLC	419/0	418/0
DIPLOMA	194/0	194/0
DONKOR PK	114/0	114/0
DOUGLAS R	229/0	228/0
DOUGLAS R	170/0	170/0
DRAYTON J	775/0	780/0
DRAYTON C	411/0	413/0
DUNHILL	159/0	160/0
DELTA TST	15/4	15/4
EALING	60/0	57/0
EDIN AMER	84/4	84/0
EDIN INT	139/0	138/0
U-ELDRGE	323/0	323/0
ELECTRA I	179/0	178/0
ELECTROCOM	188/0	188/0
ELLIS EVA	147/0	148/0
EMAP PLC	190/0	191/0
ELLIS GOL	56/0	56/0
EMPIRE ST	248/0	247/0
EUROPE LA	445/0	445/0
ESKITY LA	180/0	180/0
ETAM	270/0	270/0
EUTROTHERM	258/0	257/0
EUTROT HT	243/0	242/0
EUTROT HT	14/4	15/0
EVERED HL	107/0	108/0
FKI BABCK	121/0	119/0
FARNELL E	158/0	158/0
FED. HOUSN	172/0	175/0
FENNER JH	153/0	153/0
FERGUSON	285/0	285/0
U-FIELDS M	135/0	135/0
FINE ARTS	171/0	171/0
FLEMING T	136/4	135/0
FLEWING J	184/0	181/0
F & C PAC	103/0	101/0
FINCLAY J	89/0	90/0
FIRST LEI	473/0	473/0
FIRST MAT	244/0	243/0
FST SCOT	335/0	334/0
FITCH LOC	276/0	276/0
FORCOL IT	94/0	95/0
FOSECO MI	219/0	218/0
FREDMAN	308/0	300/0
FLNG. FE-I	149/0	146/0
FLNG. AM-I	99/0	100/0
FLNG. MERC	195/0	195/0
FLNG. OSEA	134/0	132/0
F R GROUP	265/0	265/0
U-FLOYD O	31/0	30/0
FRESHBAKE	93/0	93/0
U-FORD M	95/0	95/0
GEEST PLC	226/0	226/0
GEI INTL	124/0	123/0
GERB. ORAT	320/0	320/0
GVT ORT	216/0	216/0
GESTETNER	165/0	168/0
GLYNED	451/0	450/0
GVT ATL	107/0	108/0
GVT STRT	215/0	214/0
GREYCAT	330/0	331/0
U-GODIN.C	116/0	112/0
GRNPM-TV	48/0	50/0
GRMP-TV H	214/0	214/0
GRA GP	77/0	77/0
GT PTIND	305/0	305/0
U-UNWLS S	743/0	735/0
GRNHL-WTL	188/0	188/0
GRN.KINGE	447/0	445/0
GUINS.PEA	87/0	88/0
HTV GROUP	235/0	238/0
HALL (M)	133/0	133/0
HAMBROS I	187/0	187/0
HRRS.GUNS	117/0	117/0
HRSN+CRSF	546/0	548/0
U-HUTHRN	26/0	25/4
HEATH (CE	399/0	398/0
HIDRSH GP	261/0	260/0
HPWTH-CR	233/0	231/0
HEWD-STUR	109/0	109/0
HEYWOOD W	248/0	250/0
HICKSH.JN	163/0	162/0

World Indices

INDEX	LATEST	1/PREV-DAYS/2	PREV-QR	PREV-YR
FT 30 IND	1408.9	1405.1	1377.8	1313.9
FT 500 SHR	0	976.5	0	913.61
FT ALL SHR	0	884.50	867.07	835.48
FT GOV SEC	88.19	88.21	87.72	85.55
FT GOLD MN	301.1	305.6	313.8	453.1
FT MINES F	0	429.94	426.25	342.99
FT OIL	0	1682.6	1613.8	2284.4
FT WLD DLR	115.35	115.35	115.18	136.44
FT WLD STG	93.66	93.66	93.03	124.45
FT WLD LOC	101.88	101.31	101.31	130.67

London Stock Market Report

U.K. STOCKS MIXED IN QUIET LATE TRADING
LONDON, DEC 22 - SHARE PRICES WERE NARROWLY MIXED IN QUIET LATE TRADING AS THE MARKET LOST MOMENTUM AHEAD OF THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS, DEALERS SAID.

SOME PROFIT-TAKING WAS DETECTED THIS MORNING BUT THIS WAS OFFSET BY NEWS OF AN ATTEMPTED DAWN RISE ON BLUE CIRCLE SHARES EARLY IN THE DAY. BLUE CIRCLE STOOD 12SP HIGHER AT 456 AFTER A HIGH OF 480.

JAMES CAPEL CONFIRMED IT WAS SEEKING 38 MLN BLUE CIRCLE SHARES OR AROUND 15 PCT BUT DEALERS SAID THE MOVE, FOR AN UNIDENTIFIED BUYER, APPEARED TO HAVE MET WITH LITTLE SUCCESS. AT 1530 GMT THE FTSE 100 INDEX STOOD 0.4 POINTS LOWER AT 1,408.8

DEALERS SAID SOME 16 MLN BLUE CIRCLE SHARES HAD CHANGED HANDS BY 1530 GMT, OF WHICH AROUND HALF MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO BE IN THE HANDS OF THE MYSTERY BUYER, LEAVING IT WELL SHORT OF THE 38 MLN SHARES WHICH WOULD MAKE UP A 15 PCT STAKE.

ADELAIDE STEAMSHIP HAS BEEN MENTIONED AS A POSSIBLE BIDDER FOR BLUE CIRCLE. ADSTEAM HAD A 6.85 PCT STAKE IN THE COMPANY IN MARCH BUT MAY HAVE SOLD SOME SINCE THEN, DEALERS SAID.

OTHER COMPANIES SEEM LIKELY TO BE INTERESTED IN BLUE CIRCLE INCLUDE HANSON TRUST, UP A PENNY TO 136, BTR, DOWN 18P TO 265 AND LAFARGE OF FRANCE. DEALERS SAID BTR FELT BECAUSE OF A BEARISH NOTE FROM A MAJOR U.K. SECURITIES HOUSE.

London Gold

LONDON, DEC 22 - GOLD BULLION CLOSED 3.50 DLRS HIGHER AT 483.00/483.50 DLRS AN OUNCE BUT BUSINESS WAS SO QUIET DEALERS ATTRIBUTED LITTLE SIGNIFICANCE TO THE UPWARD MOVE.

FIRMER OIL PRICES CONTRIBUTED TO A SLIGHT RALLY ON COMEX WHICH PROMPTED A SYMPATHETIC RESPONSE IN EUROPE AND TOOK GOLD TO A HIGH OF 483.50/484.00.

MOST EUROPEAN DEALERS HOWEVER KEPT SQUARE POSITIONS TAKEN AT THE END OF LAST WEEK. DEALERS SAID UNDERLYING SENTIMENT IS FAIRLY CONSTRUCTIVE AND SOME INTEND TO RE-OPEN LONG POSITIONS IN THE NEW YEAR.

London Money Market

LONDON, DEC 22 - MONEY RATES WERE NARROWLY MIXED AFTER A QUIET DAY, WITH SHORT-TERM RATES REMAINING SOFT AFTER GENEROUS RECENT OFFICIAL INJECTIONS OF LIQUIDITY, DEALERS SAID.

THIS HAS REMOVED SOME OF THE UPWARD PRESSURE ON RATES WHICH SEEMED TO BE GAINING MOMENTUM LAST WEEK, AND THE MARKET IS NOW LOOKING FORWARD TO A QUIET RUN-UP TO CHRISTMAS, BARRING ANY UPSET FROM U.K. TRADE DATA TOMORROW.

THE MEDIUM-TERM OUTLOOK IS UNCERTAIN, DEALERS SAID, ALTHOUGH MOST OPERATORS ARE LOOKING FOR BASE RATES TO MOVE UP IN THE NEW YEAR, THE DISCOUNT HOUSES PROVED MORE RELUCTANT TO SELL BILLS TODAY, IN CONTRAST TO THEIR BEARISH STANCE OVER THE LAST WEEK.

Foreign Exchange

DLR	STG	DMK	FFR	OPG
1.8290/8300	1.8305/15	1.6295/05	5.5095/45	NOON
DKK 1.6265/6345	2.975/989	2.9800/9835	10.0805/0955	NOON
FFR 5.5085/5225	10.085/103	338.00/60	25.99/24.04	1300
SFR 1.3240/3250	2.4209/4241	81.12/23	33.295	FIX
HFL 1.8365	3.3590	112.57	6.9582	FIX
ECU 1.26668	0.691795	2.66468	7.65416	CLSE
SDR 1.38788	0.757163	2.62127		NOON
YEN 126.70/80	231.73/232.01			
SDR	21/12/1987	OTHERS	22/12/1987	

BUCKLEYS	172/0	173/0	HIGGS-HIL	274/0	275/0
BULMER HP	154/0	155/0	H.L.M.D-DIS	78/0	78/0
BURGESS	198/0	198/0	HILL SAM	801/0	805/0
U-CPU COM	88/0	87/0	U-HOBSON	50/0	49/0
CALEDONIA	318/0	315/0	HOGG TARD	148/0	145/0
CAMB INST	55/0	56/0	HOGG GSTB	188/0	190/0
CAMB ELEC	205/0	205/0	HOLMES PR	82/0	82/0
CANNING W	179/0	178/0	HOLDEN GR	88/0	89/0
CAP. RADIO	161/0	161/0	U-HUGHES	82/0	83/0
CARADON	240/0	240/0	IBSTK. JSE	155/0	155/0
CARLESS C	94/0	94/0	ICE. FZ. PD	295/0	295/0
CARLTON C	660/0	665/0	INRY INTL	633/0	360/0
CATER ALL	338/0	335/0	INCHCAPE	623/0	628/0
CENTL ITV	423/0	423/0	INDPNDT	41/4	41/4
CHATER CN	294/0	295/0	INDPNDT W	12/0	12/0
CHARTERNA	264/0	270/0	INT. BU. CH	83/0	80/0
CHRISTIES	397/0	395/0	INT. S.C.-G	143/0	143/0
CHRS.CHUR	96/0	97/0	INVDGN. DS	164/0	163/0
U-CIFER	19/0	19/0	INVSRT. C	314/0	313/0
U-CLUFF	112/0	113/0	INT. CTY. HS	174/0	170/0
CLIFFE PET	99/0	99/0	JNSH. MATH	275/0	275/0
COALITE	330/0	331/0	KALON	46/0	45/0
COATES BR	343/0	340/0	KENDY. BRK	238/0	240/0
CASE GP	52/0	52/0	KETSON	69/0	69/0
COLLINS W	570/0	575/0	KLMT. BNS	329/0	325/0
COLLINS A	450/0	450/0	KKIKFIF I	189/0	186/0
COTR.L.SCR	44/0	45/0	KKIKSAVE	307/0	306/0
COWIROL	219/0	220/0	KLEIN OS	106/4	107/0
COSTAIN G	259/0	257/0	LABRKE W	353/0	
COURTS A	158/0	160/0	LDN. INT. G	282/0	282/0
CREST NIC	191/0	191/0	LDN. GRP	233/0	232/0
CRODA INT	117/0	116/0	LAING(J)-	245/0	245/0
CROWTHER	117/0	116/0	LAING(J)-	245/0	245/0
CRYSTALAT	147/0	146/0	LAING PRO	325/0	325/0
DARES EST	30/0	31/0	LAINT HD	224/0	223/0
DAVIS GP	164/0	164/0	LWRNCE. W	108/0	109/0
DAVY CP	144/0	144/0	LEIGH INT	166/0	167/0
DAMSON IN	211/0	212/0	LIX SERV	290/0	289/0
DELT GP	266/4	268/0	LITTLE JF	38/4	38/0
U-DEMY W	105/0	105/0	LOGICA	255/0	255/0
DRG PLC	419/0	418/0	LDN+M+THR	97/0	
DIPLOMA	194/0	194/0	LDN+MCHST	229/0	229/0
DONKOR PK	114/0	114/0	LDN+MCT	148/0	150/0
DOUGLAS R	229/0	228/0	LDN INV T	31/0	32/0
DOUGLAS R	170/0	170/0	LASMO OPU	140/0	140/0
DRAYTON J	775/0	780/0	LDN. UTD. I	180/0	180/0
DRAYTON C	411/0	413/0	LYONN P&	305/0	305/0
DUNHILL	159/0	160/0	LOM+BONAR	198/0	197/0
DELTA TST	15/4	15/4	LOM+CO W	562/0	560/0
EALING	60/0	57/0	LOME HOME	333/0	335/0
EDIN AMER	84/4	84/0	LVT HDG	808/0	813/0
EDIN INT	139/0	138/0	M+G GROUP	260/0	260/0
U-ELDRGE	323/0	323/0	M.K.ELEC	686/0	692/0
ELECTRA I	179/0	178/0	MACARTH G	287/0	295/0
ELECTROCOM	188/0	188/0	MCHT+STN	436/0	437/0
ELLIS EVA	147/0	148/0	MLN. GLNW	515/0	515/0
EMAP PLC	190/0	191/0	MCKOTE. PL	270/0	280/0
ELLIS GOL	56/0	56/0	MHSF. S. BW	460/0	460/0
EMPIRE ST	248/0	247/0	MCPINE	419/0	422/0
EUROPE LA	445/0	445/0	MSTY	142/0	141/0
ESKITY LA	180/0	180/0	HTST. TWO	112/0	112/0
ETAM	270/0	270/0	MATHWENS	95/0	95/0
EUTROTHERM	258/0	257/0	MENEC (MEC	185/0	180/0
EUTROT HT	243/0	242/0	MENZIES J	347/0	348/0
EUTROT HT	14/4	15/0	MERCIT TS	134/0	133/0
EVERED HL	107/0	106/0	U-MRHYDAN	323/0	325/0
FKI BABCK	121/0	119/0	METALRAX	79/0	80/0
FARNELL E	158/0	158/0	MEYER INT	339/0	338/0
FED. HOUSN	172/0	175/0	U-MICROVT	33/0	33/0
FENNER JH	153/0	153/0	MAI PLC	100/0	101/0
FERGUSON	285/0	285/0	KIDSUMNER	297/0	295/0
U-FIELDS M	135/0	135/0	MINET HDG	443/0	445/0
FINE ARTS	171/0	171/0	MONKS IT	187/0	186/0
FLEMING T	136/4	135/0	MORGAN GR	278/0	275/0
FLEWING J	184/0	181/0	U-MRIS W	15/0	15/0
F & C PAC	103/0	101/0	MOUNTLEIGH	165/0	166/0
FINCLAY J	89/0	90/0	MRGN CRUC	249/0	250/0
FIRST LEI	473/0	473/0	MRGTE. MER	72/0	72/0
FIRST MAT	244/0	243/0	MORLAND+G	465/0	465/0
FST SCOT	335/0	334/0	MRSN. SMK	271/0	270/0
FITCH LOC	276/0	276/0	MT. CHLT. H	110/0	111/0
FORCOL IT	94/0	95/0	MOWLEN J	356/0	354/0
FOSECO MI	219/0	218/0	MUCKLON G	132/0	131/0
FREDMAN	308/0	300/0	MRY. INC.	162/0	162/0
FLNG. FE-I	149/0	146/0	MRRY. INT.	151/0	151/0
FLNG. AM-I	99/0	100/0	MRRY. SH. M	133/0	133/0
FLNG. MERC	195/0	195/0	N. TOKYO I	134/0	133/0
FLNG. OSEA	134/0	132/0	NEWARTHILL	065/0	060/0
F R GROUP	265/0	265/0	NMAN-TONK	169/0	168/0
U-FLOYD O	31/0	30/0	NMAN. IND	45/0	45/0
FRESHBAKE	93/0	93/0	NEWS CORP	400/0	
U-FORD M	95/0	95/0	NEWS INTL	230/0	235/0
GEEST PLC	226/0	226/0	NORCROS	356/0	354/0
GEI INTL	124/0	123/0	NORMANS G	63/0	63/0
GERB. ORAT	320/0	320/0	NRLFAC. C	25/0	25/0
GVT ORT	216/0	216/0	NRLFAC. CP	32/4	
GESTETNER	165/0	168/0	N. AM. TRUS	312/0	311/0
GLYNED	451/0	450/0	N. ENG. IND	102/0	102/0
GVT ATL	107/0	108/0	NDRD+MPCD	131/0	131/0
GVT STRT	215/0	214/0	NORTON OP	134/0	135/0
GREYCAT	330/0	331/0	OCEAN T&T	250/0	248/0
U-GODIN.C	116/0	112/0	OCEANICS	23/0	23/0
GRNPM-TV	48/0	50/0	OWNERS AB	66/0	66/0
GRMP-TV H	214/0	214/0	OPCRD INS	252/0	252/0
GRA GRP	77/0	77/0	PAC. ASST.	100/0	100/0
GT PTIND	305/0	305/0	PRKFLD GR	294/0	290/0
U-UNWLS S	743/0	735/0	PEACHY PR	378/0	380/0
GUIN. LML	86/0	88/0	PENTLAND	126/0	125/0
GRING. KINGS	477/0	465/0	PHOXIO	89/0	88/0
GRV. CL	87/0	88/0	PHICOM	37/0	37/0
HTV GROUP	235/0	238/0	PHICWICK	175/0	175/0
NALL (M)	133/0	133/0	PLEASURAM	159/0	160/0
HAMBROS I	187/0	187/0	POLLY-PEC	273/0	272/0
HARRIS. OS	117/0	117/0	POMELL DU	325/0	324/0
HRSN+HRSN	546/0	548/0	PWRSCLD I	106/0	107/0
U-HCTRFR	26/0	25/4	PREEDY A	107/0	106/0
HENDIN (CE	399/0	398/0	PRMR. C.O.	50/0	50/0
HEATH. GR	261/0	260/0	PRDFOOT A		
HPWTH. CRM	233/0	231/0	U-PROP TS	3/0	3/0
HEWD-STUR	109/0	109/0	QUEENS N	87/0	88/0
HEYWOOD J	248/0	250/0	RAGLAN PR	21/0	21/0
NICKSON. JN	163/0	162/0	RAINE IND	87/0	88/0
			U-RANDS T	139/0	140/0

OECD tells governments to strengthen market confidence

West must act urgently to boost growth

PARIS, Dec 22. (Reuters): The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) told industrial nations today they must act urgently to promote economic expansion following the financial crash of 87.

The call, in a half-year review by the 24-nation economic affairs "think tank", brought an embarrassing public clash with West Germany.

The West German delegation stunned OECD officials by issuing a communiqué categorically stating that Bonn saw no need for further action to boost its economy.

The OECD's gloomy assessment of the industrial world's prospects had said the market crash, on and after Wall Street's Black Monday, October 19, wiped off about half a percentage point from projected growth rates for the West as a whole over the next two years.

Action
It saw a risk of further deterioration unless coordinated action was taken quickly. It stressed that slower expansion would rule out any improvement in high unemployment until at least the end of this decade.

"Governments... need to move promptly to restore credibility, and to strengthen market confidence that major problems are being addressed effectively," the OECD said.

One of the governments called on to do more was that of West Germany. And it did not like it. It has been particularly sensitive to criticism by the United States and also France, that it is not going enough to stoke up a sluggish economy.

Measures
"The Federal Republic of Germany is called upon to take additional fiscal policy measures in order to ensure higher growth. From the German point of view, the present economic situation does not require further measures," the West German delegation's statement, issued in Paris, said.

A senior OECD economist conceded to Reuters: "It's evidence of a fairly strong disagreement. They had told us that they disagreed with the report."

The OECD's gloomy assessment of the industrial world's prospects had said the market crash, on and after Wall Street's Black Monday, October 19, wiped off about half a percentage point from projected growth rates for the West as a whole over the next two years.

but we have to stick to our guns."

OECD gloom contrasted with assertions by American, Japanese and French, as well as West German, government officials in recent days that the financial crash has yet to do much damage to their real, underlying economies.

The OECD said growth in the Gross National Product (GNP) of the OECD area would fall to 1.75 per cent by 1989 from 2.25 per cent next year and 2.75 per cent this year.

West Europe would expand more slowly than the United States and Japan.

Problems
The stock market crash had created problems for monetary authorities. They had to balance demands for extra liquidity to help business against the need to see that too much money did not reignite inflation.

Inflation is expected to creep up to 3.5 per cent over the next two years in the OECD area as a whole from 3.25 per cent in 1987, with the rise most marked in the United States and Japan.

On joblessness, the OECD had little comfort. Unemployment in the OECD area was forecast to edge up to 8.25 per cent of the workforce in 1989 from eight per cent now.

The slight increase masked a sharper deterioration in Western Europe, where unemployment of 10.75 per cent was seen rising to 11.25 per cent by 1989.

Offering remedies, the OECD said the United States must make bigger budget deficit cuts than those agreed last month.

Deficit
Kjell Andersen, head of its national studies division, told Reuters: "The US has to do more on the budget deficit. It needs to take more convincing measures, and it needs to take more of

them."

The OECD report said that, "even apart from its economic impact, continued progress in reducing the US budget deficit has become a symbol of the willingness of the US authorities to take appropriate measures with important psychological implications for financial markets."

Next, the OECD urged Japan and West Germany to ensure that their economies grew steadily so that they buy more goods and take up the slack in global demand as the United States acts to balance its books.

Japanese growth is forecast to slip to three per cent in 1989 from 3.5 per cent now, though recent tax measures were likely to lead rapidly to higher domestic demand, it said.

Impact
But "major uncertainties remain about the possible impact of lower world demand and about possible future exchange rate developments. The Japanese authorities will need to remain vigilant."

The OECD then called firmly on West Germany to improve its growth rate, which is forecast to fall to 1.25 per cent in 1989 from an already sluggish 1.5 per cent.

The OECD report tallies exactly with an outlook from the West German's own independent Economic Affairs Advisory Council in November.

The government predicts expansion of 1.5 to two per cent next year, and hopes an investment package and a recent cut in interest rates may boost it above two per cent.

But the OECD believes the impact of the markets' crash on trade and the dollar — halved in value since 1985 and now at historic lows — has hit West Ger-

man growth prospects.

"It is the assessment of the OECD and most other observers that, even taking account of the 1988 tax cuts and discounting any adverse direct effects of the stock market crash, the German economy may continue to grow below its medium term potential over the remainder of the 1980s," the OECD said.

Group of Seven finance ministers agreed in February at their Louvre meeting in Paris to act to reduce imbalances in world trade, with the surplus nations, Japan and West Germany, pledging to boost growth in their domestic economies.

But, with expansion remaining sluggish elsewhere, the US trade deficit has touched new records, going above \$17 billion in October.

The OECD said America would still show a current account deficit of \$105 billion in 1989, compared with \$134 billion in 1988 and \$156 billion this year.

Meanwhile, OECD said inflation might ease slightly, but unemployment would remain close to present levels next year in most southern European countries.

Trade deficits in those countries, apart from Turkey, were likely to worsen as a result of rising consumer demand, it said.

The current account in Spain was expected to go into deficit over the next two years from a small surplus in 1987, despite continuing gains of export market share, the 24-nation economic think tank said in its latest half-year review.

Spanish inflation would fall to 3.75 per cent in 1989 from 5.5 per cent this year and unemployment was expected to fall slightly, although staying near one in five of the workforce.

But the growth of Spain's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was forecast to slow to 3.5 per cent from 4.5 per cent.

Target
The report also said wage increases would probably exceed a government four per cent target for 1988, but would nevertheless remain moderate.

Economic growth in Portugal should fall to around three per cent next year and 2.5 per cent in

1989 from five per cent this year, the report said.

The OECD also predicted a sizeable deterioration in the current account balance, which was likely to record a \$1.5 billion deficit in 1989 after a small surplus this year.

A further fall in unemployment, now eight per cent of the workforce, was unlikely but wage increases should continue to be moderated in line with a new income policy, the report said.

Deregulation

A policy of price deregulation and reduced state subsidies left the government less room to act on rising prices, it said.

Inflation in Greece might fall to 12.5 per cent by the turn of 1989, on the assumption of a rate of increase in average pay of 13.75 per cent next year as well as constant trading profit margins and a recovery in productivity, the review said.

Noting that public consumption and investment were expected to be the main elements of strength, the OECD said a continued moderate recovery of business investment seemed likely.

Unemployment was likely to edge up to nine per cent of the workforce in 1989 from eight per cent this year, with the current account deficit widening in the next two years due to higher domestic demand and deteriorating cost competitiveness.

Outlook

The OECD said the outlook for 1988 in Turkey was uncertain as the government programme and budget had not yet been announced.

But it expected broad orientations to remain unchanged, although some tightening of fiscal policy was possible.

As employment was expected to increase only moderately in response to slower output growth, the unemployment rate in Turkey would probably remain high.

With both exports and imports seen growing at a slower pace, the current external deficit was likely to remain around the \$1 billion level, the OECD said.

Gulf Bank weekly market review

KD strengthens against dollar

BASED on opening middle market FX rates, the KD further strengthened against a declining US dollar to end the week at a record high of 272.55 fils compared to week before last closing of 272.69 fils. The KD was easier against pound sterling closing the week at 501.08 fils against week before last closing of 497.07 fils.

The KD lost some ground against the Swiss franc ending last week at 206.95 higher than week before last closing of 202.94. The KD maintained a stable tone against other major currencies and the GCC currencies. The KD was slightly lower against Jordanian dinar closing the week at 806.36 fils compared to week before last closing of 804.00 fils.

US dollar
The lengthy debates continued over the week-end to resolve differences between White House and Congress in measures over spending cuts and tax increases to seek a compromise to comply with the two bills approved on Dec 16 by the Senate to cut budget deficit by at least \$76 billion over two years and the \$608 billion spending bill till Sept. 30.

Therefore no support was provided to the dollar on the budget deficit reduction front as the dollar posted new record lows against major currencies especially the yen and the mark although it recovered part of its losses by end of the week on speculation of a G-7 meeting.

Despite the small gains the dollar remains under pressure as the market still feels US is unwilling to defend it. Affecting the dollar also the typical thin and dull year-end market in which movements are exaggerated and dealers are reluctant to take new positions.

The dollar remains vulnerable to comments as the one stated by Professor Martin Feldstein of Harvard who predicted the dollar would reach 115 yen in the near term and 100 yen over 3-4 years.

Japanese yen
The yen rose to 128.00/10 at the opening of the week and resumed its surge to reach new post-world record highs at 125.80/90 before ending the week a little lower at 127.00/10 after it closed week before last at 128.30/40 yen, despite persistent Bank of Japan intervention to support the dollar and halt yen rise. Sources of Bank of Japan said that the negative impact of the yen's rise on the Japanese economy would not be that big as the economy is growing strongly on stronger yen as the merits are passed on to consumers, except for exporter industries.

The broadly defined money supply surged 12.4 per cent in November from a year earlier compared with 11.7 per cent October rise. However BOJ said that it would continue watching domestic price levels for inflationary pressures. Japan's October industrial production was revised up to 2.2 per cent from 1.2 per cent, from September and 9.0 per cent up from a year earlier. Wholesale price index fell 0.2 per cent in November after being unchanged in October and stood down 0.1 per cent from a year ago while in October it was up 0.6 per cent from a year earlier.

Deutsch mark
The mark resumed its strength against the declining US dollars opening the week at 1.6320/30 and hitting the new record highs at 1.6165/75 before closing the week slightly at a lower level of 1.6330/40 compared to its week before last closing of 1.6310/20 mark.

The Bundesbank left its credit policies unchanged after its weekly regular meeting. It is seen unlikely to make any changes in its monetary policy. W. German central bank money stock grew at a higher annual rate in November of 8.2 per cent well above of October 7.8 per cent rate and beyond the 3-6 per cent target to tolerate the strong monetary expansion as a sign of flexibility in dealing with new developments.

Wholesale prices index in November fell 0.2 per cent compared with a rise of 0.4 per cent in October and stood 0.9 per cent lower than a year earlier.

year earlier. Producer prices in November were unchanged from October when they had risen 0.3 per cent and stood 0.1 per cent higher from a year ago. Public sector deficit rose by 25 per cent to 41.1 billion marks in the first 9 months of 1987.

Pound sterling
After opening the week at \$1.8350/60, sterling closed lower at \$1.8230/40, below its week before last closing of \$1.8375/85. Earlier in the week, the pound slipped in response to weakening oil prices after the latest Opec accord.

It was also depressed by news from the Confederation of British Industry on Monday that British exporters are starting to feel the effects of sterling's strength. However, it recovered later in the week on encouraging UK data.

UK producer price index rose by 0.3 per cent in November, compared with a 0.5 per cent rise in October, giving a year-on-year gain of 3.9 per cent. UK retail sales rose 1.5 per cent in November after rising a final 0.9 per cent in October. British industrial production rose 0.9 per cent in October after falling a downward revised 0.7 per cent in September.

UK average GDP rose 5.2 per cent in the third quarter after a 3.7 per cent gain in the second quarter year-on-year. UK November employment in the UK fell to 9.5 per cent of the workforce, compared to 9.8 per cent in October. UK average earnings rose 8 per cent year-on-year to October after a 7.9 per cent rise in September.

French franc
The French franc ended the week at new record highs against the US dollar at \$5.230/80 francs, above its opening and week before last closing levels of \$5.230/70 francs. The Bank of France left its intervention rate unchanged at 7.3/4 per cent. French finance minister reported that France's trade performance is showing signs of fundamental improvement, and is evidence the economy remains buoyant despite the stock market crash and the falling dollar.

Swiss franc

The Swiss franc ended the week higher at 1.3260/70 Sfr against the US dollar, compared to its opening level of 1.3285/95 and its week before last closing of 1.3290/00. Swiss industrial production fell 4 per cent in the third quarter compared with the second quarter and was 2 per cent under the year-earlier level. November trade deficit narrowed to 118.8 million francs from 814.9 million in October.

The Swiss National Bank set a target of 3 per cent for growth in 1988 central bank money supply compared with the 2 per cent targets set in 1987 and 1986.

Oil prices

Oil prices fell sharply in the world markets last week compared with levels recorded the week before last. Spot prices for North Sea Brent crude reached to about \$15.55 by end of week against \$17.60 closing in the week before last. Prices for January cargoes were between \$16.10-17.90 range compared with \$17.80-18.20 recorded the week before last.

Precious metals

Gold
Gold bullion prices opened the week at \$499.75/500.25, but moved to a lower close at \$480/480.50, against its week before last closing of \$493.20/70 losing on average \$14.

Earlier in the week, gold prices rallied to a high of \$502.50/503.50 the first time it had breached \$500 since Feb 22, 1983, prompted by the weakness of the dollar. However, gains were pared by the fall in oil prices and a technical correction.

Platinum
Platinum prices opened the week at \$510/512 and ended the week lower at \$498/500 recording on average a loss of \$6 against the week before last closing of \$504/506.

Silver
Silver bullion prices opened the week at \$7.01/7.03 and closed lower at \$6.76/6.78 compared to its week before last closing of \$6.87/6.89 recording losses of 11 cents/oz on average.

Dollar eases

Markets move in narrow ranges

LONDON, Dec 22. (Reuters): The dollar closed slightly lower in Europe today and world share prices lacked any clear direction as financial markets wound down ahead of Friday's Christmas holiday.

News from Washington that Congress had approved a much-anticipated package of cuts in US budget deficit had little impact.

While dealers have long said such cuts were needed to help restore confidence to nervous markets, the passage of the US spending and revenue bills through the Senate and the House of Representatives seem to have been largely discounted.

Dealers also expect a promised statement from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialised nations to contain few surprises.

"I imagine that everything coming from that corner has already been fully discounted in prices," said one dealer.

Mixed
European shares were narrowly mixed in thin trading while stocks in Tokyo and Hong Kong slipped. Wall Street was broadly down across-the-board in early business.

The dollar closed at 1.6285 West German marks in London after closing yesterday at 1.6340. It finished at 126.50 Japanese

yen compared to 127.05. Business was quiet.

A number of key European banks had closed their books for the year and dealers said the Christmas holiday would sideline many investors for the rest of the week. Most world markets close on Friday for Christmas. Tokyo remains open.

Gold bullion was fixed in London this afternoon at \$483 an ounce, just slightly higher than the morning fix of \$481.60.

Dealers in currencies and shares see the US budget cuts — which President Reagan is expected to sign, enacting them into law, later today — as just a first step in a new effort by the G-7 to steady the dollar.

Steadier
Many investors want to see steadier currency rates before buying shares in European or Asian firms because a weak dollar cuts such companies' sales in the US market and gives their US competitors a big advantage when exporting.

What they all say is needed now is a G-7 statement, outlining what the seven countries — the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Italy, Britain and Canada — plan to do.

Here is how major stock markets outside the United States

closed today:

TOKYO: Tokyo, the world's biggest stock market, closed before Congress voted, with its benchmark 225-share Nikkei index down 215.82 points, or 0.94 per cent, at 22,741.02.

"The market has no appetite," Shigeru Yoshida, sales manager of Sanyo Securities said.

LONDON: The Financial Times stock exchange index of 100 key shares was virtually unchanged, and ended just 2.8 points lower at 1,747.4 points. Initially, a dawn raid — on Blue Circle Industries, a cement-making company — briefly boosted British share prices.

FRANKFURT: West German shares closed mixed in almost completely inactive trading, after easing from early highs. The Commerzbank 60-share index, calculated at midday, was up 8.7 points at 1,352.6, but the 30-share Boersen-Zeitung index closed with just a 0.78 point gain, at 281.17.

"Two-thirds of the time we were standing around discussing the weather," one Frankfurt dealer said. "We'll have to wait for the (financial) institutions to reopen their books in 1988 before we see some action again."

PARIS: French shares closed easier in mostly technical, book-

squaring trade. The 50-share Bourse indicator posted a closing 0.96 per cent decline, slightly improved from its loss of around 1.30 per cent early in the afternoon.

Elsewhere, Zurich shares edged higher, with the all-share Swiss index up 5.2 points to 780.3, while Milan's MIB index rose just 0.43 per cent and Madrid shares were mixed. Amsterdam's CBS all-share index was unchanged at 66.1 and the Stockholm bourse was also steady.

Moscow keen to boost economic ties with Iran

TEHRAN, Dec 22. (Opecna): Prime Minister Hussein Musavi has been assured of Soviet keenness to cooperate with Iran, especially in the oil industry, railways and transportation.

The assurance came from the Soviet ambassador to the country, Vladimir Gudev, during a meeting with the prime minister on Thursday.

The envoy said it was in the interest of both countries to step up cooperation and develop closer bilateral relations.

Arco raises stake in Britoil

LONDON, Dec 22. (Reuters): US oil exploration company Atlantic Richfield Co (Arco) has raised its stake in independent oil firm Britoil Plc. Arco said today.

The move came shortly before Britain's panel on Takeovers and Mergers was to assess a full takeover bid for Britoil by British Petroleum Co Plc (BP).

An Arco statement said it had raised its stake to 19.2 per cent from 14.7 per cent, acquiring 22.8 million ordinary Britoil shares. This lifted its total share ownership to 97.1 million.

Arco has said it wants to gain 49.9 per cent ownership of Britoil while BP is seeking to acquire all of the firm.

Oil giant BP earlier this month raised its stake to 29.9 per cent. BP has said it will proceed with its takeover move despite a British government announcement that it would fight any attempt to take control of the Britoil board.

The treasury said the government would exercise its "golden share" in Britoil — gained when it privatised the company in 1982 — enabling it to veto any board decision it considered unfavourable.

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAIKH PORT AS ON 22.12.87			
B. No.	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
5	Ibn Qutaibah	KSA	4843150
6	Zarka	Al Qutub	4747815
8	Shaan	ISA	2441860
9	Tug Salvanita	Gulf Star	4845501
12	Barge Jubail	Gulf Star	4845501
13	Aken	Stearnsco	2439973
14	Lanka Seedeivi	Al Qutub	4747815
14	Ibn Alatheer	KSA	4843150
FH3	Smolny	A. Seas	2421303
16	Tropical Queen	ISA	2441860
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAIKH PORT			
ETA	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
22/12	Rich Victoria	United Shpg	2463150
22/12	Shezan	Algh Barber	4843988
22/12	Al Khaleej	Livestock	2434177
22/12	Tilia	Algh Barber	4843988
23/12	Komeshima Maru	Al Bader	2433537
SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUAIBA PORT			
B. No.	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
2	Navrotissa	A. Bahar	2459891
6	Kefalonia Hope	Algh Barber	4843988
12	Polydefkis	Bader	2433537
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUAIBA PORT			
ETA	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
22/12	Sunset	Algh Barber	4843988
23/12	Providence Bay	KMMC	2419814
24/12	Y.S. Prosperity	Rashed	2422016
25/12	Al Wajba	UASC	4843150
27/12	Est Alga	Al Qutub	4747815
COMPILED BY:			
Alghanim Barber Shipping Co. P.O. Box 21708 Safat			
Alghanim Industries Bldg. Airport Road, Shuwaikh			
Phone 4843988/4842988 Extn 3628/3614.			

"To me, travel arrangements make or break the holidays."



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IN FOCUS
The world today

WEeping relatives attend to one of the 26 survivors in the collision between a tanker and a cruise liner in which some 2,000 are feared missing or dead. (Reuter radiophoto)



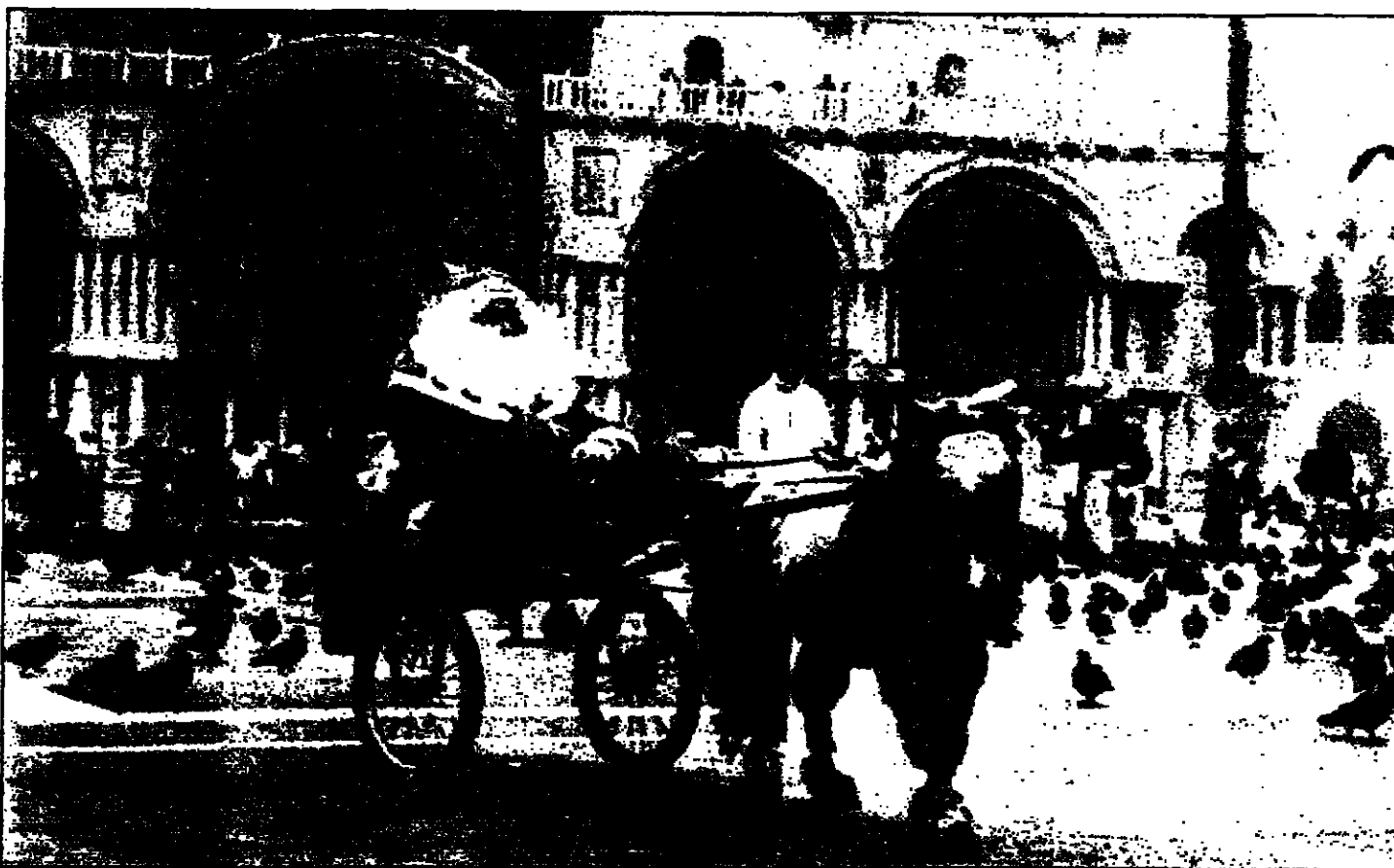
CHINESE pilot Liu Chih Yuan, who defected to Taiwan in November with his MiG-19 fighter, is given 5,000 taels of gold and a rank of major at the Nationalist Air Force yesterday. Chief of General Staff Hau Pei Tsun (left) is seen pinning the rank on Liu's shoulder. (Reuter radiophoto)



A WOMAN seen distributing bread in this "restaurant of the heart" as many have reopened for winter to feed the poor and homeless, in a tradition started three years ago by the late actor Coluche. Some 220,000 people are expected daily in the 600 soup-kitchens around France where 7,000 volunteers will serve them free hot meals. (Reuter radiophoto)



SPANISH King Juan Carlos (left) greets Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Ahmed Esmet Maguid during a private audience at the Zarzuela Palace on Monday. (Reuter radiophoto)



SANTA CLAUS rides a buggy in St Marks Square in Venice on Monday. (Reuter radiophoto)



PORTO's Algerian striker Madjer poses near a Christmas creche as he announces yesterday in Madrid that he will play for Valencia soccer club from January 1, 1988 until the end of the Spanish season when he will join Bayern Munich. (Reuter radiophoto)



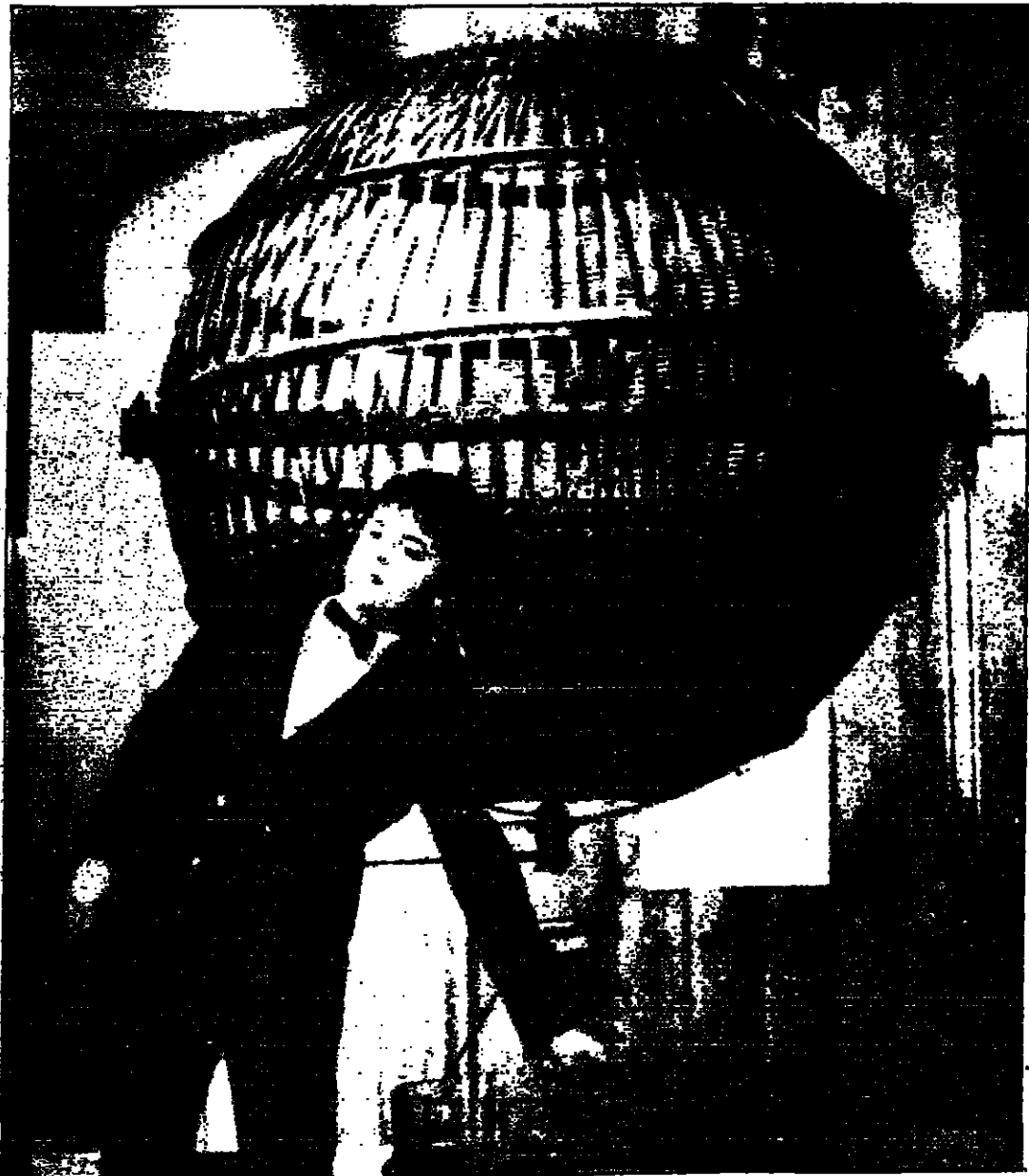
THE explosive Howard beach trial came to an end on Monday when Jon Lester and Scot Kern, both 18, were convicted of manslaughter in the death of Michael Griffith, a black man who was run down by a car on a highway in 1986. Both were also convicted of assault and conspiracy. Jason Ladone, 17, was also convicted of manslaughter and assault, while Michael Pirone, 18, was cleared of all charges. Pictured left to right: Pirone, Kern, Lester and Ladone. (Reuter radiophoto)



SOUTH KOREAN citizens read an advertisement in yesterday's paper by opposition leader Kim Dae Jung apologising to his supporters for losing in last week's presidential election by failing to field a single candidate against the government candidate Roh Tae Woo. Kim also said in the advertisement that the election was rigged and he would fight for democracy. (Reuter radiophoto)



JORDAN'S King Hussein (right) and Soviet President of the Praesidium Andrei Gromyko (second left) inspect the Soviet honour guard upon King Hussein's arrival in Moscow on an official visit on Monday. (Reuter radiophoto)



A YOUNG Madrid orphan reaches down to grab a ball with a winning number on it during yesterday's drawing of Spain's annual Christmas lottery — the world's richest with a total prize money of \$770 million. (Reuter radiophoto)



AN Iranian family Mosser Yazdi (centre) and Roykiah Mihkoon (left) with their children Mojban Tehran and Sasha Yazo arrived at Madrid's Barajas airport Monday night after Spain granted them asylum on grounds of humanitarian reasons. Two of the Iranians had attempted suicide by slashing their wrists on board an Iberia plane bound for Madrid after their expulsion from Denmark where their plea for political asylum was rejected. (Reuter radiophoto)



A LONDON office worker finds time to catch up on his thoughts during the busy lead-up to Christmas, by making some friends in St James Park and ensuring they have their small share of the festive spirit. (Reuter radiophoto)

OUTLOOK

By Kathy Cuddihy

TRUE joy lies in giving. There's certainly a lot of truth in the statement. But do you ever notice that the people who push the virtue never get around to mentioning the glitches involved in being generous? For example, who among us hasn't been challenged by the "difficult" gift? That house gift for a house you're about to visit for the first time. You've never met the owners of the house, either, so it's guesswork all the way. Or the friend or relative you knew well — 20 years ago — and haven't seen since. But suddenly there's going to be a reunion, and tradition demands the offering of a suitable gift. Or that illusive present for the man/woman who supposedly has everything. Just as formidable are presents for people who "don't want anything." They should get exactly what they want: nothing. After all, they're either lying through their teeth and therefore don't deserve anything, or it's their way of saying they don't trust your judgment — in which case they don't even deserve the thrill of the gamble.

In theory, children should present no problem when it comes to gifts. We all know that clothes, furniture, and anything that's practical or nutritious are strictly taboo. That leaves toys. To assist the addled adult, most toys and games now conveniently state "suitable for age such and such." What could be simpler? A basic skateboard costs almost as much as a downpayment on a mink coat. We had to mortgage last year's computerized galactic monsters (still in mint condition after only minimal use) to pay for this year's models!

But if there's joy in giving, dubious as it may be at times, there is also joy in receiving. Usually, being a recipient does have its hazards.

The gift of giving



I personally find it nearly impossible to maintain a glow of pleasure when receiving a stuffed creature — and I don't mean a teddy bear. Our giant, leather and varnish turtle, which the children adore, is a case in point. I just can't warm to something which stares malevolently at me from behind dark, glassy eyes. Despite my efforts to hide it away, it keeps appearing unexpectedly, scaring the wits out of me every time... like when I bend down to tuck the children into bed and give them a goodnight kiss... only to find myself being accosted by a hooked beak!

In the same league as stuffed animals come accessories made from reptile skins... with the beast's head appended for maximum effect. Another of my "gifts to remember", a stunning handbag, outshone the stuffed turtle

by light years. This gift brought an involuntary scream to my lips as I removed it from its expensive box... and caught my fingers in a row of teeth. At least I don't have to worry about bag snatchers — unless they want to risk losing an arm.

Perplexing

Almost as perplexing as gifts that once lived as gifts that can't be identified. One of our wedding presents was a beautiful, octagonal, china "thing" with a loose-fitting lid. It obviously had a specific function, but even the smartest China shops in our city (halfway across the world from the "thing's" point of origin) couldn't enlighten us. My thank you note was a masterpiece of diplomatic vagueries. Several years later we learned that people in the know called the "thing" a ginger jar. Fortunately, most

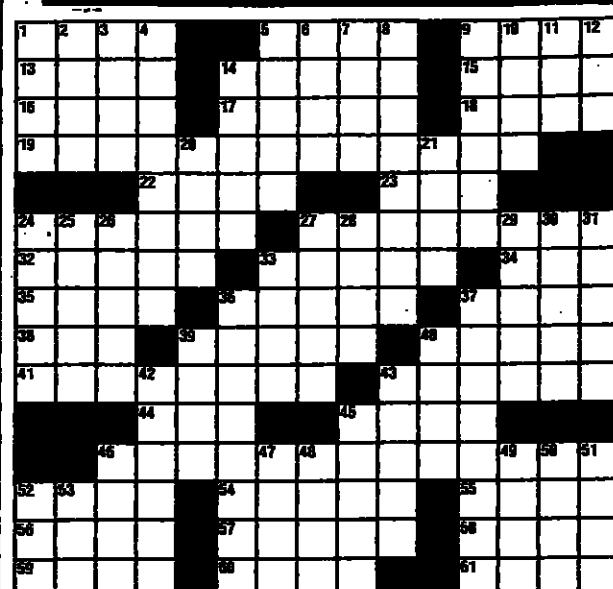
reputable stores are agreeable, even sympathetic, when it comes to exchanging gifts. It does become embarrassing, though, when the store refuses to accept your particular item because it was originally bought on sale... several months previously. But the real piece de resistance comes when the store has never stocked the item you're trying to return — despite the fact the gift came wrapped in the store's fancy box....

What happens to those gifts we won't use or can't return? Some of them get stashed away, ready for rapid retrieval should the donor happen to visit and expect to see his/her otherwise undisplayable gift on display (like the rooster lamp or the phosphorescent replica of a famous monument). Other rejects get foisted upon unsuspecting charitable organizations or appear in garage sales. Yet others survive through bequest. We are the current owner of a gaudy brass chariot. It has been bestowed by departing group members upon remaining members for the past 8 years. Unfortunately we're the last remnants of the old gang, so we're left holding the reins.

Of course, some people have no such worries about what to do with unwanted gifts. They recycle with sincerity. When we asked our maid why she never uses the camera we gave her, she proudly replied that she had given it to her brother as a wedding present. Not an ounce of guilt or embarrassment did she suffer. Her attitude is that the gift served its main purpose in merely being given. What she's really trying to tell us is that it's the thought that counts... and of course she's right.

But next year, Aunt Tilda, could you show some imagination when you choose your thoughtful gift? Thermal underwear 6 years in a row tests even the most grateful recipient.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Freshwater fish
5 Compleat
9 Women
13 Encourage
14 Encore
15 Russian news agency
16 Aft
17 Iraqi port
18 Gaelic
19 Irrelevant
22 Printer's mark
23 Possess
24 Part of HSH
27 Yelled
32 Coeur d'Alene
33 Felt ill
34 Macaw of Brazil
35 Speedy
36 Valuable violin, for short
37 Transport for a British baby
38 ABA member
39 Go too fast
40 Old hat
41 Put back into use
43 Silences
44 Saver's letters
45 Certain Egyptian
46 Speculate in stocks
52 Happy
54 Wear away
55 — Domini
56 Ireland
57 More unusual
58 Spouse
59 Sea bird

DOWN

2 Cutting comment
3 Busy as —
4 Coral and Red
5 Shill
6 Marble
7 Shindig
8 Cash in Como
9 Smiten
10 Bristles
11 Listen!
12 Direction
13 White poplar
14 Sandy hill, in Cornwall
21 Amazed
24 Islamic month
25 Fill with joy
26 Musical symbols
27 Fathered
28 Garbed
29 Milieu for 39
30 Obliterate
31 Fonteyn and Markova
33 Suit to —
36 Painters, at times
37 Dell purchase
39 Wading bird
40 Insect stage
42 Tennis great Bill
43 Artist Winslow
45 Yielded
46 Young salmon
47 Catch
48 Circle dance
49 Tree knot
50 Grafted, in heraldry
51 Digits
52 Obtain
53 Prevaricate

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

BEES INCUR VAST
OLEO NOONIE ERIE
LIEU CELLARETTE
TASTERS EMERSED
CAME ASSAI
TRANSACTS REGAL
RILE SAT RESEDA
AVA RENEGED OAR
MATTED SAG AMID
SLEEP STRUMMERS
LEAPS LOOT
CADENCE PAPERED
ARISTOCRAT BIKE
DEMI RINSE ADEN
SAISS NESTIS ESSE

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
FORCE YOUR WAY IN

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ Q J 6 3
♥ Q 7
♦ 10 4 3
♣ Q J 9 5

WEST EAST
♠ 9 7 4 ♠ 10 8 5 2
♥ J 10 9 6 3 ♥ 8 5 4 2
♦ 8 ♦ A K Q
♣ K 10 7 4 ♣ 8 3

SOUTH
♠ A K
♥ A K
♦ J 9 7 6 5 2
♣ A 6 2

The bidding:
South 1♦ West 1♠ North 1♠ East 3NT
2NT Pass 3NT Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♥

With a combined total of 27 high-card points and a six-card suit, you might think that three no trump should be a simple contract. But even looking at all four hands, it is not easy to see how South can make his contract.

Note that, because his high cards are not in his long suit, South's hand does not have the trick-taking potential that his count might sug-

gest. We feel his decision to rebid two no trump was a practical solution to a difficult problem. All that was left to do was to make nine tricks after a heart lead.

If declarer could take seven tricks in the black suits, he would be home. He won the opening lead with the king, cashed the ace-king of spades and then led a low club toward the dummy. West could not rise with the king without presenting declarer with three tricks in the suit, so he played low. When the jack won, declarer still had the problem of getting back to the table to cash a long club if he could establish one. He solved that beautifully by cashing the queen of spades and discarding the ace of hearts!

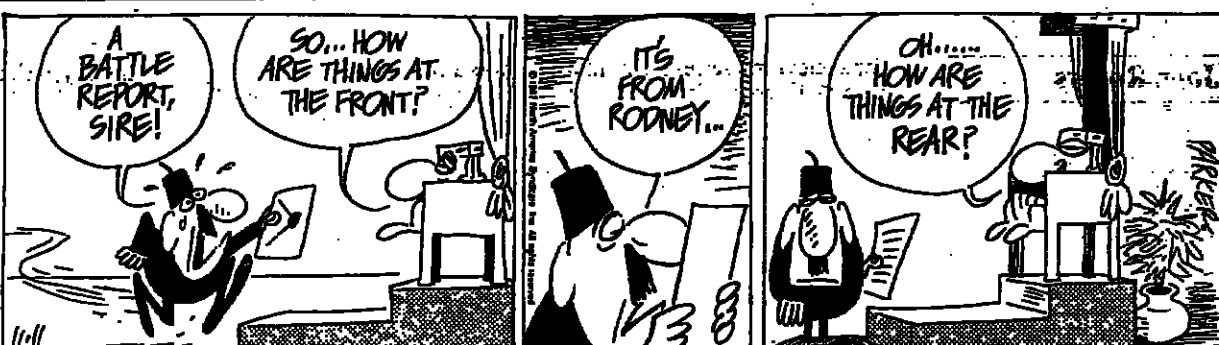
After taking the ace of clubs, declarer exited with a club, and the defenders were dead. In with the king of clubs. West was forced to lead a diamond—any of the other suits would have provided declarer with his avenue into dummy. But a diamond proved to be no better. East could take his three tricks in the suit, but that was the end of the defense. No matter what he did after that, dummy would take the rest of the tricks.



"It didn't get any better than this."

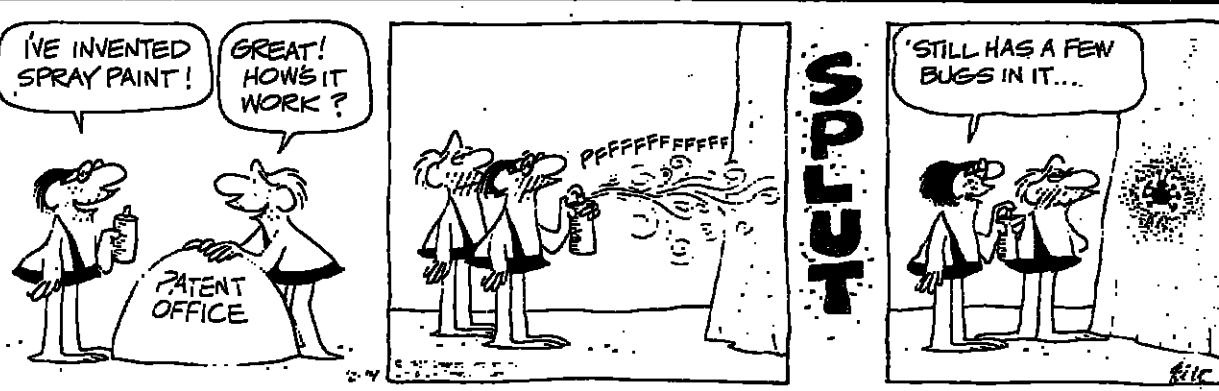
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



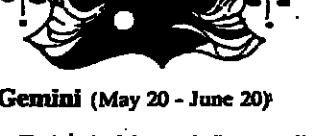
Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You will be able to succeed more than you had thought possible. You must however concentrate hard on what you are doing. Make sure you do not do anything that might be bad for your health. Be tolerant.



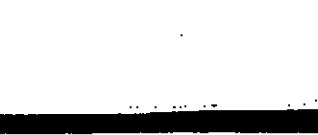
Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

Mars's better influence will help you to deal with a personal problem. You should not spend too much time on secondary matters. You should be a little more practical. Be moderate.



Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

The situation has taken a turn for the better and you will be able to get a move on. You will however be liable to miss a good opportunity. Do not do anything your partner would not like. Be moderate.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

You should avoid all kinds of exaggerations and exercise a little more restraint. You will be able to stay on good terms with your workmates. You should try to show a little more goodwill. Be frugal.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You will be able to solve a problem that has been troubling you for some time now. Venus's better influence will help you to improve your personal life. You should not do anything silly merely because you feel lonely. Be flexible.



Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

You will be able to catch up on something that has fallen behind through no fault of yours. You should beware what you say about others and whom to. Take the greatest of care when walking or driving. Be considerate.



Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

You will not find it quite so easy to make up your mind. You are rather liable to come to the wrong conclusion. Venus's influence coupled with that of Neptune will help you to escape from a predicament. Be punctual.



Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

You will be a little less sure of yourself. Something that is about to happen will not be quite as bad as you had feared. Mercury's influence will help you to avoid reaching the wrong conclusion. Be resolute.



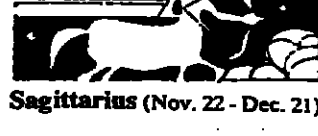
Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

You will tend to be a little on the nervous side. The more favourable influence of Venus coupled with that of Neptune will help you to stay out of trouble. Make sure you keep a promise. Be more friendly.



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You will be able to succeed more than you had thought possible. You must however concentrate hard on what you are doing. Make sure you do not do anything that might be bad for your health. Be tolerant.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

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Nancy writing her memoirs

By Helen Thomas

WASHINGTON, (UPI)—Nancy Reagan, admitting she feels tired and wishes she had more time to recuperate from breast cancer surgery, says articles and books written about her are "infuriating" but she puts them out of her mind.

"Otherwise I don't know how you'd survive," she said in a wide-ranging interview with United Press International. "Lots of things have been written about me," she said. "They can be infuriating — they can be maddening and they can be frustrating, but OK, that's it, and you have to put it out of your mind and go ahead with what you're interested in and what you want to do. Otherwise, I don't know how you survive."

While the first lady indicated she found former aides' tell-all books distasteful, she revealed she herself is well into writing her memoirs.

"Obviously I'm not going to finish it until after we walk out the door," she said. Her technique is to "talk into a tape recorder. It's amazing how much you forget. You think you will never forget. But, my gosh, I'm appalled at the things I've forgotten. It's overload."

Mrs Reagan's eyes were misty when she revealed that she felt "very badly" about the perjury conviction of close friend Michael Deaver and understands she cannot mix socially with him while his case is under appeal.

Deaver, a Reagan family friend of 20 years who was deputy White House chief of staff from January 1981 to May 1985, was convicted of perjury in probes of his post-government lobbying.

She said sadly she would not be able to extend the traditional invitation for Christmas dinner this year to Deaver and his family because of his legal problems.

Asked whether she thought Deaver should get a presidential pardon, she said, "I don't think that's anything for me to get into, obviously."

She also said it is "not for me to decide" whether pardons

should be granted to former national security advisor John Poindexter and Lt. Col Oliver North, under grand jury investigation for their actions in the Iran-Contra scandal. Last December, she denounced them for not confessing their roles in the scandal.

The First Lady was elegantly attired in a raspberry jersey dress with a gold choker and toyed with a tiny gold ring on her right little finger. The ring belonged to her mother, Edith Davis, who died in October.

Blow

Her mother's death was another blow in a sorrowful year for the First Lady, who underwent a modified radical mastectomy Oct. 17 to remove her cancerous left breast. Ten days later, her mother, Edith Davis, died, and when her daughter, Patti Davis, did not attend the funeral, what had been a quiet family rift became a public disappointment.

The First Lady simply said, "I don't know" when asked what had alienated her daughter. Asked if she would see her daughter over the holidays, Mrs Reagan said, "we've tried (to see her) several times... but to do that to mother, I'll never understand it. My mother was very good to everybody."

She said that after her surgery, she did not "have any time to recuperate — I wish I had had more time."

The Iran-Contra scandal also was frustrating to her and the President because of his self-imposed silence during the special congressional committee hearings which seemed to her to last "10 years."

She called "hysterical" the conclusions of the majority that the President had disdained for the law and permitted a "cabal of zealots" to control clandestine operations in the White House.

In addition, she endured the pointed suggestions of lawmakers and columnists, who called her "Lady Macbeth" and "Dragon Lady," implying she wielded too much influence over her husband in the selection or dismissal of his aides.

Mrs Reagan played an active



Mrs Reagan finds articles and books written on her infuriating.

role in ousting Donald Regan from the post of chief of staff Feb. 28, and said his successor, Howard Baker, is doing a "fine" job. But she denies she is the power behind the throne.

She explained the influence she does have with the President is born out of their long marriage. "My Gosh, when you've been married 36 years, don't you discuss everything? What would you talk about? Who did your hair?... of course, you talk and exchange opinions."

But reports of a profound sway over her husband are "really not fair to him."

She said of the aides who left the White House, "I think at times (the President) could have been better served," but that the President does not hold grudges.

"Everybody says, 'Gee, he doesn't seem to have aged in 10 years, don't you discuss everything? What would you talk about? Who did your hair?... of course, you talk and exchange opinions.'"

But reports of a profound sway over her husband are "really not fair to him."

She said of the aides who left the White House, "I think at times (the President) could have been better served," but that the President does not hold grudges.

"Everybody says, 'Gee, he doesn't seem to have aged in 10 years, don't you discuss everything? What would you talk about? Who did your hair?... of course, you talk and exchange opinions.'"

be furious about something I haven't read?" she asked.

She also said she and her husband decided to move into a \$2.5 million home in fashionable Bel Air, California, purchased by 18 California friends, after the President leaves office in 1989, but they have not yet signed a contract.

Of one person who would like to replace Reagan at the White House, the First Lady wondered how former Colorado Senator Gary Hart could jump back into the Democratic campaign "with no money and no organization. It's hard enough when you have both."

"When you have a little money, little support, it must be agony," she said.

"What's the best part of being First Lady?"

"Being able to use that platform and doing something you care about and are concerned about and hopefully can do something about, and I think I have."

And the worst?

"Being under the microscope," she said. "Nobody is prepared for the kind of magnifying glass that you're under. I don't care how long you've been in public life."

DISCOVERY

Script on Indus Valley seals could represent a numerical system

Deciphering a 5000-year-old mystery

By M.D. Rity

COULD the script on the Indus Valley seals represent a numerical system? This is the question posed by scientist-historian Dr. B.V. Subarayappa. Until now, scholars had attempted to interpret the script as a linguistic or alphabetical system, with a few numbers. This approach had ended in a virtual dead-end as no one could decipher the script in its entirety.

"In spite of all that has been written on the subject, the Indus Valley script will have to remain a mystery till such time as a key of unimpeachable character, or a bilingual inscription with a known language, or a long inscription with significant recurrent features is found," wrote T.V. Mahalingam in his book *Early South Indian Paleography*.

Dr. Subarayappa, who is the director of the Centre for the History and Philosophy of Science of the Indian Institute of World Culture in Bangalore, thinks he has now found the key to interpret this script.

He suggests that the Harappan civilisation, which was both widespread and commercially developed, must have evolved a number system of its own. This would have been necessary for its merchants and traders to develop a system of weights and measures and maintain accounts.

Premise

Archaeologists and scholars who had studied the Indus seals had identified certain rod-like forms, and some others, as numerals. Was it possible that even the other signs, innumerable as they appear to be, are actually numerical forms? If they are, then in what manner can they be substantiated?

Do they also have some fundamental forms which in turn have yielded their derivatives? Dr. Subarayappa studied the symbols on the seals, amulets

The Indus Valley script has been a puzzle for archaeologists ever since it was excavated over seventy years ago. Deciphering the dialect would unlock the mysteries of this ancient civilisation. An Indian researcher has now claimed that he possesses the key to the secret of Harappa and Moenjodaro



Dr. B.V. Subarayappa

and beads in depth for more than two years, and was finally able to find answers to these questions.

Scholars from India and other countries have all worked from the basic premise that the Indus script stood for a language. The renowned historian Father Heras had said that the people Moenjodaro and Harappa were Dravidians who spoke a proto-Tamil language, and that their script was picto-phonographic. Researchers like Langdon, C.J. Gadd, Pran Nath, S.K. Ray, W.M.F. Petrie, M.G. De Hevesy and H.P. Mergeri regarded it as a script of alphabets and allied linguistic concepts.

Swami Shankarananda and B.M. Barua even felt that it had tantric overtones. More recently, Finnish scholar Asko Parpola and Russian scholar Knorozov attempted to analyse the structure of this script by using computers. S.R. Rao interpreted it as an old Indo-Aryan language with an affinity to the language of the Rig

Veda. But none of them could decodify the entire range of symbols found on the seals.

More than 2900 seals have been recovered from about 20 Harappan and five West Asian sites. Anthropological information about the inhabitants of the Indus Valley civilisation is scarce, so we know little about these people. Archaeologists agree, though, that this civilisation, which they refer to as the Harappan culture, was at its peak between 2500 and 1900 BC, and that it continued as the late Harappan phase.

The dimensions of the seals range from 1 cm x 1 1/4 cm to 5 cm x 5 cm. As many as 1540 seals were found on the site now called Moenjodaro, today in Pakistan, while Harappa accounted for another 985. Of the sites in India, 165 of the seals are from Lothal, 99 from Kalibangan and 86 from Chanudaro. Most of the seals are made of steatite, copper, ivory, agate, chert, faience and clay are some of the other materials used.

Each seal has a large motif, usually of an animal, with some other symbols in the remaining space. Dr. Subarayappa examined these other notations in some depth, and has now come to the conclusion that they are actually a well-knit form of the decimal system. The basic elements of this system are the vertical rod forms.

These rod forms, either long, medium or short, denote numbers from one to 12. The actual origin of the concept of numbers is shrouded in the mists of antiquity. Counting on the finger probably played a major

role in the process. Five fingers of a hand enabled counting up to five; a combination of fingers and toes up to 20.

Would there have been a decimal system if early man had had four or six fingers on each hand? Dr. Subarayappa suggests that the fact that man had five digits on each hand and foot gave rise to the quinary, decimal and vigesimal systems. In the Indus system, one rod, which really represented a finger, stood for the numeral one, two rods for the numeral two and so on.

Specific symbols were used for 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 20 and so on. The derivatives of these notations were, in turn, rationally worked out. This indicates that the seal-makers might have been trained in the process of numerical recording. Earlier scholars thought that the seals were used strictly for commercial purposes. This numerical interpretation makes Dr. Subarayappa think that some of them might have been meant for keeping a record of accounts.

Numerals

The Indus numerals as interpreted by Dr. Subarayappa connote the addition-multiplication system. He has worked out detailed derivations of the numerals to decipher the exact numbers denoted on the seals. His number spectrum has one as the minimum and a little over 90,000 as the maximum of the numbers expressed. Moreover, about 800 of the seals depict the numbers above 1000, and 130 of these connote 60,000 and above.

As further evidence to support his theory, Dr. Subarayappa suggests that several other number systems of later civilisations that have already been deciphered, originate from the Indus numeral system as interpreted by him.

Seals from the Indus Valley have been found in places like Ur, Telloh, Kish, Umma and Susa. It is known that the inhabitants of this civilisation had established trade with neighbouring civilisations. "The numerical forms used by the Chinese Shang dynasty and the Attic Greeks, and in the Brahmi and Kharoshthi inscriptions seem to be derived from the Indus numeral system," says Dr. Subarayappa. "Numerical systems are of great value for any kind of human dynamics. I think that the basics of Indus numeral science were used either directly or indirectly by the Chinese and the Greeks."

The Harappan numeral system had several innovations for doubling and tripling as well as for multiplying by fusing or conjoining numerals. This is seen in the derivative forms generated. Dr. Subarayappa is able to compute the total number denoted by the inscribed symbols on every seal.

Some of the numerals had more than one form. Thus, there were as many as ten different symbols for the numeral 10. Why was this so? This is a question that Dr. Subarayappa is yet to answer. Other areas that he is studying now are the usage, though occasional, of two alternative basic forms or their derivatives to connote the same value on a seal.

"I feel that they had evolved some sort of set theory," he says. He is trying to figure out this mathematical concept too. Were the numbers counted in sets or groups and the total number determined thereafter?



Bronze seals from Moenjodaro

Dr. Subarayappa feels that the Harappans — and even later civilisations — might have been able to count all the way up to 90,000 in straight progression. They probably depicted it as 90 independent units of 1,000.

He is attempting to find out through computer analysis whether the animal motifs are related to certain magnitudes of numbers. Archaeologists have not yet been able to say which seals are chronologically older and which are more recent.

The idea that some of the seals could have been meant for maintaining records is also entirely new. The records could have been of normal day-to-day transactions like pottery production, agricultural out-

THE INDUS SEALS

A listing of the basic numerical forms on the Indus seals

Basic Forms	Numerical Value	Remarks
Countable Rod Forms:	1 to 12	Used in Kharoshthi inscriptions; horizontal form in Brahmi inscriptions
or or	4	X form used in Kharoshthi inscriptions
	5	
	6	Used by the Chinese
or or	7	Used by Chinese; in Brahmi inscriptions
or	8	Used in Kharoshthi inscriptions
or	9	Used in Chinese oracle-bone forms
or or or	10	Used in Brahmi inscriptions; used in Kharoshthi inscriptions; used by the Attic Greeks; used by the Chinese
or	20	Used by the Chinese; used in Brahmi inscriptions
or	100	Used in Kharoshthi inscriptions; also in Ashokan; used in Brahmi inscriptions; used by the Attic Greeks
	1000	Used by the Chinese; used in Brahmi numerals

put, cattle or even bricks laid and used. "Are the animal motifs symbolic of the tiers of accounts?" wonders Dr. Subarayappa. "Were the script forms indicating the numbers inscribed as and when necessary or were they executed in one stroke?" These are questions that he hopes to answer.

Dr. Subarayappa has not studied the original seals himself, he has worked from photographs of the seals. His interpretation indicates for the first time that the Harappan culture was far more advanced in the science of numbers than either the Egyptian or the Sumerian civilisations. Until now, we had enough archaeological and literary evidence to prove the mathematical prowess of the latter civilisations, but little information about the mathematical development of the Indus Valley.

Surprisingly enough, Dr. Subarayappa has chosen to present his dynamic new interpretation as an "approach paper" and not in the form of a published book. "That is because I just wanted to generate some discussion on this concept to start with," he explains. "I have already begun interacting with several scholars all over the world on this subject. I might write a book on my interpretation of the seals after I have finished investigating the seals to my satisfaction."

The anthropological and historical implications of Dr. Subarayappa's conclusions are endless. Researchers now eagerly await the results of the next series of investigations that he has already begun on the Indus Valley symbols.

Courtesy: Illustrated Weekly of India.

Explorer on the trail of Peruvian pyramids

By John Rogers

CAIRO, (Reuters): Norwegian explorer Thor Heyerdahl hopes grave-robbing won't plunder the objects of his newest project — Peruvian pyramids.

He plans to investigate the ancient South American structures to find out where their builders came from.

Tomb-robbing, the bane of archaeologists' lives, have already taken 95 per cent of the gold treasures from one pyramid at Sipan, on Peru's northern coast.

"It had been dug through by treasure-hunters. It looked like worm-eaten cheese," Heyerdahl said.

And he doesn't want them trampling over another 26 untouched pyramids which he plans to explore with Peruvian partners near a village called Tucume, 90 minutes' drive from Sipan.

"That's a great risk after the enormous treasures found at Sipan," says Heyerdahl, who has asked Lima officials to secure the site for excavation planned to start in April or May.

The latest project of the 73-year-old scientist, disclosed this week, is part of a life spent tracing ancient maritime links between continents and different civilisations.

Heyerdahl, interviewed in Egypt on a tour of old haunts

for a television series on his life, is clearly more interested in balsa-wood rafts than in gold. "I do not expect necessarily that we will find any treasures. That's not what we are looking for," he said.

"But we feel that such an enormous complex which has survived intact for so long must contain a lot of clues about the beginning of civilisation in South America."

Heyerdahl has no theory yet about the origins of the ancient pyramid-builders whose rafts washed up on Peru's coast.

But his mind is bubbling with the possibilities.

He rules out links between Tucume's adobe (dried mud) structures and Egypt's 5,000-year-old Pharaonic pyramids but says there is a strong parallel with those of ancient Mesopotamia, now Iraq, which served as both tombs and temples.

"I do not believe that they are linked with ancient Egypt nor do they necessarily have to be linked with ancient Mesopotamia," he said. "But somehow, I believe there is a common root."

In a half-century of exploration, Heyerdahl has returned repeatedly to the theme that oceans unite continents rather than divide them.

"We must stop looking at the oceans as an isolator in archaeology," he said. After rafts were invented, "the ocean

was a conveyor."

Heyerdahl is best known for the Kon-Tiki expedition in 1947, when he crossed the Pacific Ocean in a balsa raft from Peru to a coral island near Tahiti, showing that ancient South Americans could have populated the Pacific islands.

In 1970, he sailed in a papyrus boat, Ra-II, from Morocco to Barbados, to show that ancient Egyptians could have reached the Americas centuries before Christopher Columbus landed in 1492.

He made his latest Peruvian find when he returned to Peru last June as part of his biographical odyssey for television.

"He met archaeologist Walter Alva, now his partner on the planned Tucume excavations. "He showed me a sensational discovery... he had just started to excavate a pyramid at a site called Sipan, where grave robbers had been caught emptying the largest gold treasure found in South America this century."

Alva took over when five per cent of the treasure was probably left. But an estimated 95 per cent "had been sold — probably melted down — to non-scientists," he said. "Still there was an enormous scientific treasure to be saved and it was saved by Alva and his Peruvian colleagues, including two masks of pure gold."

Sipan dated back to the early Moche period of Peruvian

history, well before the Incas. It meant "that here we had solid archaeological proof of long-distance voyages at least 1,000 years before Columbus," Heyerdahl said.

Alva took him to Tucume. "Unbelievable as it is, in a desert valley next to the village were 26 pyramids never touched by archaeologists or grave robbers," he said.

It was the world's biggest complex of prehistoric adobe structures, covering 220 hectares (550 acres), dating from the first 500 years A.D. and maybe earlier, Heyerdahl said.

The pyramids, 30 to 40 metres (100 to 130 feet) high, probably stayed unexplored for centuries because they looked more like eroded sandstone mountains than man-made structures.

Also, "there are so many archaeological sites in Peru that there is plenty to do for the limited number of archaeologists who work there," Heyerdahl said.

Lack of scientific interest was even stranger because 16th century Spanish historians had described the complex and collected oral history.

According to tradition, the pyramids were ruins of a city started by descendants of King Naymlap, a founder of Peruvian civilisation who reached Peru from the north with his wife and concubines on board a large fleet of balsa rafts.

Turkish coast yields bronze-age artefacts

By David Wastell

THE WORLD'S first "Filofax" has been discovered in a wreck on the sea bed off the south coast of Turkey.

The 3,400-year-old scribe's tablet is among a myriad of bronze-age artefacts recovered at Ulu Burun, near Kas, from the oldest complete shipwreck marine archaeologists have ever explored. It has ivory hinges, which would have been fastened to protect its writing surfaces, and is pocket-sized.

Dr George Bass, of the Institute of Nautical Archaeology, Texas, who is director of the team excavating the wreck, said their finds were "quite extraordinary". They include pottery, weapons, jewellery and copper and tin ingots.

Items have been found from seven different civilisations which were flourishing in the Mediterranean at that time: Mycenaean Greek, Canaanite, Cypriot, Egyptian, Kassite, Assyrian and Hittite.

"I am always an optimist but I never dreamed that we would uncover anything of this sort," said Dr Bass. "It reached the point where we would look at Egyptian tomb painting of that era — it was shortly before Tutankhamun — showing people bearing gifts, and use them as a sort of shopping catalogue. We found examples of pretty well everything depicted."

William Graves, senior editor of National Geographic magazine, which helped fund the project and publishes the first detailed account of the wreck next month, said: "This is the most significant underwater archaeology find I have ever seen."

The wreck was first discovered in 1982 by Turkish sponge divers who came upon a pile of ingots beneath 150 feet of water. The boat, 50 feet long and heavily laden with cargo, had sunk just 50 yards of a rocky promontory, towards

A myriad of bronze-age artefacts have been recovered from the oldest complete shipwreck marine archaeologists have ever explored. Items have been found from seven different civilisations which were flourishing in the Mediterranean at the time. They include pottery, weapons, jewellery, copper and tin ingots.



An archaeologist examines a scribe's tablet believed to be 3400 years old.

the end of the 14th century BC.

It has taken four summers to retrieve the material gathered so far, and Dr Bass estimates that they are still only at the halfway point. The team of

archaeologists working on the project can only remain at that depth for 20 minutes at a time, diving not more than twice a day.

All the objects found will

remain in Turkey and it is hoped that some may be placed on public display at the museum in Bodrum Castle, where they are being painstakingly restored and preserved, late next year.

Of particular significance are the earliest discovered ingots of tin and glass, and a tiny gold scarab, inscribed with hieroglyphics spelling the name of Egyptian queen, Nefertiti.

The early "Filofax" was almost overlooked as the wood from which it was made had broken into small pieces among the sediment inside a storage jar which had contained pomegranates.

The scribe's tablet pre-dates the previously oldest known example found at Nimrud, Assyria, by six centuries. Its two hinged wooden leaves are recessed on their inner faces, and would have held a thin layer of beeswax on which characters could be scratched with a sharpened stylus. It measures 2.5 by 3.5 inches — convenient for a bronze-age pocket.

Although supplies of a yellow sulphide of arsenic used in a wax mixture to provide the best consistency for writing were found in the wreck, the wax in this particular tablet was lost.

As a result, one major mystery remains. Dr Bass said: "They may have been the original bronze-age yuppies, but we still do not know exactly who they were."

They were probably either Mycenaean, Cypriot or Canaanite, he believes. Humdrum objects of each culture which could have been used during the voyage were found scattered around the ship.

Whoever they were, their watery demise is an object lesson to their modern counterparts who also ply the Turkish coast in unruly flotillas of sailing vessels, often with scant regard for possible navigational hazards.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

EPSTEIN-BARR VIRUS A MEMBER OF THE HERPES FAMILY

QUESTION: What can you tell me about EB virus infections? I've heard so many conflicting stories about them that I am not even sure what questions I want to ask you.

ANSWER: The Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) has been called the most common infectious agent known in humans. A member of the herpes family of viruses, EBV has been recognised as the cause of infectious mononucleosis (mono) since 1968. Additionally, it plays a highly active role in many other less-known disease conditions. Among those are: recurring parotitis (a painful swelling of the parotid glands which are near the ears); fevers in which the causes are unknown; meningitis; certain cancers located in areas of the nose and throat; and chronic urticaria (recurring — often for weeks or months — skin reactions of smooth, slightly elevated patches which are redder or paler than the surrounding skin, often causing extreme itching).

EBV-caused conditions frequently produce: obstruction of the airways; blood clots in, and/or rupture of, the spleen; some lung conditions; and the Guillain-Barre syndrome (acute, simultaneous inflammation

of many nerves). Because mono is the most common illness caused by EBV, I probably can best explain the characteristics of almost all EBV infections by briefly describing some of mono's signs, symptoms and possible aftereffects.

The most common components of mono are: swelling and pain in the neck's lymph glands; fever, sore throat, lack of appetite, chills, nausea, coughing, vomiting, abdominal pain, enlargement of the liver and the spleen, headaches, fatigue, sleep disorders, as well as aches and pains in the muscles and joints.

I must emphasise that should you suffer from these symptoms, see your physician now. There are excellent laboratory tests that can identify mono and other EBV-caused diseases rapidly. Timely, accurate diagnosis probably will save you a great deal of discomfort, time lost feeling unwell, money spent on medicines and some possible extremely serious aftereffects.

Some relatively common aftereffects of mono include: depression, mental confusion, lingering tiredness along with pains in the muscles, joints and nerves, lack of

interest in foods, plus skin rashes and swollen eyelids.

Typical treatment for those with mono include the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (commonly called NSAIDs). Although aspirin is an excellent NSAID, doctors may suggest a stronger, newer prescription drug from that particular class.

In EBV-caused illnesses — other than infectious mononucleosis — the well-known group of drugs which are called corticosteroids have been effective for a good while.

A great deal of interest is now centered on this particular virus and a new rash of symptoms that seem to linger on and on. Because it strikes young people, mostly women, who are usually energetic and hard working, it has been nicknamed "the yuppie flu". Not all physicians accept this as a new disease and I certainly the need to clarify the real situation exists.

Hopefully, this discussion of what we do know will answer some of your "unasked" questions.

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ANDY CAPP



By Smith

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SPORTS

ARAB TIMES, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1987

RAZZAK AND JAWAID HAMMER HALF CENTURIES

Evergreen retain hold on GCL Trophy



The victorious Evergreen squad with other officials.

EVERGREEN Cricket Club proved that they are still a force to contend with when they crushed Flying Arrows by seven wickets in the final of the GCL Trophy to win the tournament for the third consecutive year at the EPI ground earlier this week.

Evergreen, requiring only about four runs per over after Flying Arrows batted first and scored 183 for the loss of eight wickets, were given an excellent start by Jawaid Masood and Naeem.

Worry

The first wicket fell at 87 when Naeem was smartly stumped off by Eknayake for 28. Razzak then joined Jawaid and both of them

took the Flying Arrows' bowlers to task. Jawaid was out after taking his team to 141. He scored 78 with the help of nine fours.

Evergreen lost their next wicket quickly when Asif Ali was out for six but there was no cause for worry as Razzak remained on top of the bowling. Ashraf Rana, at the non-striker's end, had only to watch Razzak hit three consecutive fours to level the scores.

On the next delivery Razzak took two runs to complete the victory for Evergreen. Razzak hit an unbeaten 66 which included eight fours.

For Flying Arrows, Eknayake, Benju and Victor were the only successful bowlers with a wicket each.

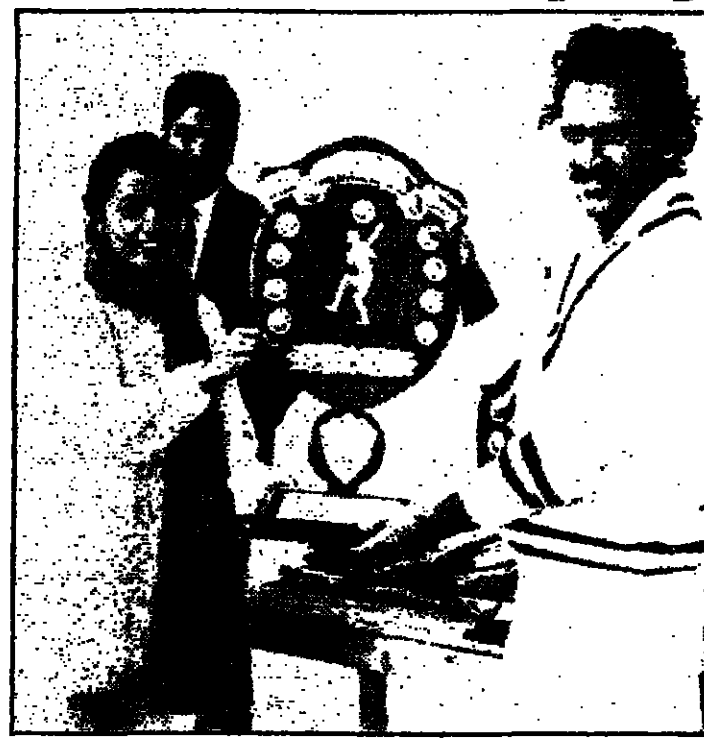
Earlier Flying Arrows, after winning the toss, batted first but were never able to get on top of Evergreen bowling. The scoreboard kept moving at snail's pace and the wickets kept falling at regular intervals.

Although Flying Arrows were able to get through the full 45 overs but they could manage to score only 183 runs for the loss of eight wickets.

Successful

Verold (16), Imdad (41), Victor (15), Alex (32), Francis (24), Vijay (14), Parash (10 n.o.) and Benjo (13 n.o.) all played useful little innings but no one stayed long enough to put Evergreen bowlers to a real test.

Only Imdad showed the right



Asad Baig receives the trophy from Mrs Bhasin.

application and temperament and hit four fours during his stay at the wicket.

For Evergreen, G. Haider, with three for 28 was the most successful bowler. Rashid Ansari gave away only 22 runs in his nine overs and took two wickets. Ish-tiaq, Jawaid Masood and Razzak also managed to take a wicket each after giving away 29,

17 and 20 runs respectively.

At the end of the match, the sponsor Shivi Bhasin of Messrs. Bhasin & Co. paid tributes to late Shabbir Ahmed in whose memory this trophy is instituted. Shabbir died while playing cricket at the Ahmadi grounds.

Gulf Bank and Deccan score easy victories

GULF BANK crushed Wings while Deccan Greens tamed Al Mulla in the Al Mulla Mitsubishi Friday League matches at the Oval ground in Ahmadi.

Wings, after winning the toss against Gulf Bank, batted first and were all out for 136 in 27 overs.

Only some sensible batting from Mirza 24, John 35, Diluksha 18 and Joe who scored an unbeaten 19 enabled Wings to reach this figure as none of the other batsmen could find any answer to the bowling of Archie.

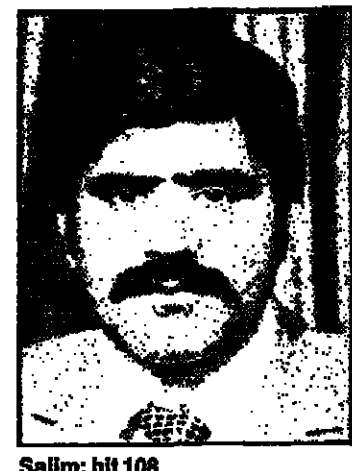
Supported

Archie did the most damage with figures of five for 31 in six overs. He was well supported by Aijaz, Perwaiz and Remy who took two, one and one wickets respectively.

In reply, the Bankers were given a prompt start by their openers Ismail and Ilyas who put on 75 for the first wicket before the latter was out for 30, caught by Hiran off Silva.

Ismail continued to play well, scoring 73 with the help of nine fours as Gulf Bank went past the victory target in the 21st over for the loss of only three wickets.

The afternoon game between Al Mulla and Deccan Green was a tall scoring affair with both the



Salim: hit 108

teams going past the 200 mark. The honours in this match were shared by Nader of Al Mulla who hit 102 and Salim Anwar of Deccan Green with 108.

Batting first, Al Mulla scored 215 for five in 30 overs. Nader played a fine knock on his way to his first century. The other contributors to the score were Jamil with 41 and Azam 26.

For Deccan Greens, Salim and Zulqarnain took two wickets each.

Deccan Green, in reply, lost Aslam with the score only five. Salim and Arun then got together and added 168 for the second wicket. Salim was particularly severe on any loose-pitched ball while Arun steadily built up his innings.

Salim was run out for 108 and Arun dismissed for 59. The other batsmen had no difficulty taking Deccan Green to 219 for six in the 29th over.

Kasparov returns to Moscow

MOSCOW, Dec 22, (Reuters): World chess king Garry Kasparov has returned to Moscow saying he was looking forward to three years of normal life after his 24-game title match against challenger Anatoly Karpov. Tass news agency said today.

Kasparov, 24, was greeted on his return from Seville, Spain, yesterday evening by leading Soviet chess officials and crowds of Soviet fans. He saved his title on Saturday through a spectacular comeback victory in the final game.

Decade

Kasparov, who will hold the title for another three years, has played 120 games over 40 months against Karpov. 36, world chess champion for a decade until 1985.

"You have to change your standards of approach after that," he told Tass. "It's like higher mathematics. But now I have won myself three years of normal life and can make plans for that long period."

Kasparov said he planned to rest, recover his strength and work on new ideas before competing in two international Grand Prix tournaments and the Soviet National Chess Championship.

A prolific author, he said he did not plan to write about the latest title match, which he won by levelling the score 12-12 in the final game in a cliff-hanger finish after Karpov moved into the lead 12-11 by winning the 23rd contest.

"The latest match was a bit of a 'through the looking glass' thing for me, and its quality was inferior to that of the previous ones, especially the (1986) rematch," he said, with a reference to the work of Lewis Carroll.

Stages

Kasparov told the government newspaper Izvestia he would divide the Seville match into three stages: the first 22 games, the 23rd and the 24th.

The final game, he said was a psychological test in which Karpov lost patience and failed to find an adequate defence.

Had the game resulted in a draw, Kasparov would have lost his title. His victory under that sort of pressure was unprecedented in chess history.

Cowboys send Rams out of playoffs

ANAHEIM, California, Dec 22, (AP): Roger Ruzek kicked a team-record five field goals and the Dallas defence slowed Charles White and the rejuvenated Rams last night as the Cowboys ended a four-game losing skid with a 29-21 victory that knocked Los Angeles out of the playoffs.

The loss snapped a winning streak by the Rams, who had won five straight after getting off to a 1-7 start.

The Cowboys, also 6-8, used a versatile, balanced offense and an opportunistic defence to beat the Rams.

Shared

Ruzek, who broke the club record he had shared with three other kickers, hit all five of his field goal attempts — from 24, 42, 44, 47 and 37 yards. His fifth gave the Cowboys a 29-14 lead with five minutes to play.

The Rams cut the deficit to eight points on reserve Steve Dils' 15-yard touchdown pass to Kevin House with 2:38 remaining, then recovered an on-side kick. But Dallas' Michael Downs intercepted a Dils pass and the Cowboys ran out the clock.

Dallas' defence, led by end Jim Jeffcoat and tackle Randy White, limited White, the NFL's leading rusher, to 66 yards on 26 carries, sent quarterback Jim Everett to the sidelines with a sprained ankle in the final period, and turned three Los Angeles turnovers into 13 points.

Birmingham to bid for Games again

BIRMINGHAM, England, Dec 22, (Reuters): The British city of Birmingham is to make a second attempt to host the Olympics when it bids later this month for the 1996 Summer Games.

The city council of this central industrial town, which lost its bid for the 1992 Olympics to Barcelona, said yesterday it would submit an application to the British Olympic Association by the December 31 deadline.

The bid is expected to face strong competition from Athens, favourite to host the event 100 years after the ancient tradition was resumed in the Greek capital in 1896.

Sikes dies

JACKSONVILLE, Florida, Dec 22, (AP): Dan Sikes, a consistent money-winner on the PGA Tour and senior tour for 27 years, died following complications after stomach surgery. He was 58.

Australia put two on standby for 3rd Test

SYDNEY, Dec 22, (Reuters): Australia's cricket selectors put fast bowler Mike Whitney and all-rounder Tony Dodemaide on standby for the third Test against New Zealand when they named an unchanged squad today.

Fast bowlers Bruce Reid and Merv Hughes are doubtful for the game in Melbourne starting on December 26 because of injury.

Reid, who ricked his lower back early in the drawn second Test, bowled for the first time in 10 days yesterday. He will train with the Western Australia squad for the next two days before facing a final fitness test on Thursday.

Decision

Hughes, 12th man in the Adelaide Test, pulled a hamstring while playing for Victoria against New South Wales. A final decision on his fitness will also be made on Thursday.

Whitney, a left-arm, caught the selectors' attention by taking five for 68 for New South Wales against Victoria. He last played Test cricket for Australia in England in 1981.

Dodemaide took five for 114 for Victoria in the drawn match at the Sydney Cricket ground. He toured Zimbabwe in 1985-86 with the young Australians but has yet to gain a senior cap.

Squad: Allan Border (captain), Geoff Marsh, David Boon, Dean Jones, Mike Veletta, Steve Waugh, Greg Dyer, Peter Sleep, Craig McDermott, Tim May, Merv Hughes, Bruce Reid.

Pak Sarhad and Punjab triumph

THE Pak Sarhad Trophy got underway this week with matches between Pak Sarhad Cricket Club and Rajistan Cricket Club in Group A and Quaid-e-Millat and Punjab Farwaniya Cricket Club in Group B.

In the first match, Pak Sarhad beat Rajistan by seven wickets. Rajistan batted first and scored 78 only with all their batsmen being out. Pak Sarhad went past the victory target in only 15 overs.

Shaukat of Pak Sarhad was the top scorer with 30 with the help of a six and two fours. Earlier on he had also taken two Rajistan's wickets. Pak Sarhad's captain Hesan Uddin also collected two wickets.

Matches

In the second match, Punjab Farwaniya beat Millat by five runs. Asif was the top scorer for Punjab Farwaniya with 37. He also took three wickets.

In the other matches played this week, Lucky Star beat Hilli Cricket Club by 64 runs. Lucky Star captain Iftikhar Mir scored 37. Crown Cricket Club defeated Butt Eleven.

On Friday Salmiya Star meet Crown and Morning Star face Quaid-e-Millat.

Osamu banned

TOKYO, Dec 22, (AP): The Japan Series champion Seibu Lions said yesterday they will ban pitcher Osamu Higashio, the Pacific League's Most Valuable Player this year, from appearing in any baseball games for six months as punishment for gambling.

All 167 IOC members expected at 1988 Olympics

Seoul predicts boycott-free Games

SEOUL, Dec 22, (Reuters): Elated Seoul Olympic organisers, with acceptance in their hands from two East bloc nations, predicted today they will host the first boycott-free summer Games since 1972.

Kim Chong-Ha, president of the (South) Korean Olympic Committee, told reporters Hungary and East Germany officially notified Seoul of their participation, the first communist states to do so, bringing the number of acceptances to 115.

"Our country welcomes these declarations wholeheartedly," Kim added, "and we are now sure that all 167 members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) will take part."

The president of the Seoul Olympic Organising Committee (SLOOC), Park Seh-Jik, also sounded a jubilant note to correspondents in Seoul now that the threat of a communist boycott was apparently lifted.

"I have very good indications that all the Eastern block countries are going to come, including Soviet Russia and China," he said.

Asian and Western diplomats in Seoul generally agreed that the other main allies of communist North Korea would all have signalled their acceptance of the IOC's January 17 deadline. They were less clear what attitude Pyongyang, Seoul's sworn enemy, would take.

Keep

SLOOC's Park said that, despite the deadline, "our policy is that we will keep our door open (for North Korean participation) until the eve of the Olympics ... perhaps they can make an about-face."

But he said Seoul authorities were capable of foiling any sabotage threat against the Games by a disgruntled Pyongyang.

Asked if last month's destruction of a South Korean airliner, apparently by a terrorist bomb, would affect Seoul's Olympic "open door" policy towards North Korea, Park said that, despite many indications, there was no proof Pyongyang was involved.

Even if there were, he added, whether it would affect negotiations between North and South was another matter. "This is an affair of the IOC, and the Olympic ideal transcends all other rivalries."

Fears of a possible communist boycott arose several years ago when an angry North threatened to ask its friends to stay away unless the IOC reversed its 1981 decision giving the Games to the South Korean capital, and agreed to split the events equally between Seoul and Pyongyang.

Both the IOC and South Korea rejected the co-hosting demand, but entered into talks

with the North in Lausanne, Switzerland, on a possible face-saving formula.

At the fourth session in July this year, IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch offered Pyongyang what he called a "take-it-or-leave-it" package — the right to host all or part of five of the Games' 23 sports in exchange for a guarantee to make no more demands.

Hopes

The North Koreans stalled, saying they would wait to respond until after the South's December 16 presidential election in hopes of dealing with a more amenable "democratic regime."

But the government candidate, Roh Tae-Woo, came out victorious and Pyongyang was unimpressed. Its official news agency called the poll "a bayonet-ruled election without precedent in the history of elections."

Piquet seeks 4th drivers' title

LONDON, Dec 22, (Reuters): World champion Nelson Piquet of Brazil believes he will be the man to beat when he starts his challenge for a fourth drivers' title at the opening Grand Prix of 1988 in Brazil in April.

Piquet, who tested with his new Lotus team for the first time at Estoril in Portugal last week, said: "Even after just one day I had a really good feeling about the team for next year."

Similar

"The car ran very well. Obviously, at this stage, I have a lot to learn. The Lotus is very similar to the Williams and driving it gives me a lot of confidence for next season."

"I have set myself the goal of becoming world champion for a fourth time in 1988. I really don't see why I shouldn't do it again."

Piquet, 35, left the Williams team at the end of 1987 season in which he resisted the challenge of his British Williams team-mate Nigel Mansell to take the title.

He also won the title in 1981 and 1983.

Piquet spent a week with his



Piquet: optimistic

new team, learning about the car and getting to know his colleagues.

Mansell, whose challenge for the 1987 title ended when he crashed during practice for the

Japanese Grand Prix, hopes to be fit to resume driving a Formula One car again by the end of January or early February.

Mansell injured his spine in the accident in Japan.

His new Williams team-mate, Italian Riccardo Patrese, was one of another eight drivers to test at Estoril, including Benetton pair Thierry Boutsen of Belgium and Italian Alessandro Nannini, the team's new signing from Minardi, who has replaced Teo Fabi.

Powered

Patrese's Williams was powered by one of the team's new Judd engines. Last season, they were powered by Honda who will be supplying Lotus and McLaren in 1988.

The week was devoted to intensive chassis, engine and tyre testing with Benetton using turbo-powered Ford engines.

Benetton, who recently signed an exclusive engine contract with Ford for the next two seasons, will be joining the normally aspirated 3.5 litre-engined teams in 1988.

Nets fight back to beat Jazz

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey, Dec 22, (AP): The New Jersey Nets may have a winning backcourt combination, thanks to an injury to Otis Birdsong.

When Birdsong was a late scratch in the Nets' starting lineup with a pulled hamstring muscle, interim coach Bob MacKinnon was forced to juggle his lineup during the game and one of the combinations he came up with was Dwayne "Pearl" Washington and John Bagley.

The pair combined for 10 points in a 16-0 run by the Nets in the final 2:50 as New Jersey rallied from a 18-point, third-quarter deficit to defeat the Utah Jazz 106-65 last night.

The victory was only the Nets' fourth in 22 games and broke a three-game losing streak.

It was the only NBA game last night. Tonight, it was to be Boston at Philadelphia, Cleveland at Washington, Dallas at Chicago, New York at Milwaukee, Atlanta at Houston, Phoenix at Denver, San Antonio at Sacramento and Golden State at Portland.

Prince reach semifinals

PRINCE Cricket Club scored a seven-wicket over National Bank Cricket Club to reach the semifinals of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy, organised by the Kuwait Cricket League, on Friday.

Prince captain Shafiq Ahmad after winning the toss put his opponents in to bat. National Bank were soon in trouble losing three wickets early on in the innings as their batsmen went for quick runs.

Target

National Bank were taken to a respectable score by Ejaz and Bashir who hit 70 and 61 runs respectively as their team put on 165 for the loss of eight wickets in

Chipped

Munir returned with excellent figures of five wickets for seven runs off five overs of which two were maidens. Jamil, Haji Siddique and Dilaver chipped in with one wicket each.

QMCC were awarded the full 12 points for their victory plus two bonus points against none collected by Burhani.

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Prince lost another wicket before Mohammed Saleem and Shahid Raza took them to victory. Shahid Raza remained unbeaten on 58. He hit a six and four fours.

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Al Hilal to face fierce competition in Jordan Rally

AMMAN: The third and final round of the 1987 Marlboro Desert Challenge, the BP Jordan 4x4 Rally — which is also supported by Emirates — has attracted crews representing six Arab countries.

In addition to local teams entered for the December 30 event, drivers from Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia are taking part.

"Due to the fact that Gulf drivers have more practical experience in this form of motorsport we will have a high percentage of visiting crews," said Derek Ledger of the RAC Jordan.

Still

Kuwait champion, Ahmed Al Hilal driving for Team Citizen Mitsubishi and on top of the driver's table in the Marlboro Desert Challenge will face fierce competition, to secure the top award, as all the top four named drivers can still clinch the crown, and the \$10,000 cash prize.

In a surprise second place following group wins in Kuwait and Bahrain, are the Kuwaiti hus-



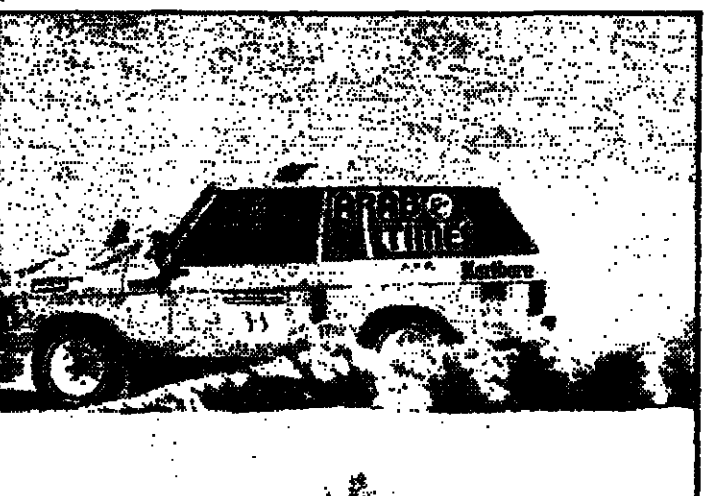
Al Hilal (right) with Fahad Al Rashed

band and wife team, Tareq and Khoulud Al Alyan. Supported by BP and Denim, the popular couple are practising here with their four-month-old daughter Dana. They are driving a low powered Daihatsu Rocky in this new series.

Qatar's Abbas Al Mosawi, winner in Bahrain, and Kuwait's Eid Falah will again drive Range

Rovers in Jordan. The 26-year-old Marlboro backed Kuwaiti holds third place in the series, just three points behind Al Alyan, while the Qatari is ranked fourth. Both drivers can clinch the series in Jordan.

Following his close second place in Bahrain, the talented Kuwaiti Tareq Al Wazzan in his Marlboro backed Range Rover,



Al Wazzan: going for a win

has already declared that he will settle for nothing less than a win. His navigator Khalid Khalifa holds joint first place with Fahad Al Rashed in the navigator's title chase.

Dubai-based Michel Saleh, who has a wealth of experience including two wins in the Jordan International Rally, will be driving a Range Rover specially

prepared in AAA Garage, Dubai. Bahrain champion, Ebrahim Mattar, who retired his Team Citizen-Mitsubishi Pajero in the last round, will also be out to drive his worth by winning here.

Saudi Arabia's Samir Kaiki in his powerful 450bhp Lamborghini could also be a possible winner in this event, following his

fine debut fifth place result in Bahrain. He will be joined by fellow Saudi driver Mohammed Al Malaki in a Daihatsu Rocky. Veteran Qatari Jaber Al Marri is also a strong contender with his modified Toyota Landcruiser, fitted with a V8 engine.

Slippery

The one day BP event will be split into three long special stages but the seasonal rain in Jordan is expected to transform most of the 300 km route into muddy and slippery sections, competition elements new to most Gulf rally drivers. Jordanian teams will contest the additional prize for a trip to Dubai.

Marlboro Desert Challenge - top five:

1. Ahmed Al Hilal - Kuwait - Mitsubishi Pajero - 36 points.
2. Tareq Al Alyan - Kuwait - Daihatsu Rocky - 31 points.
3. Eid Falah - Kuwait - Range Rover - 29 points.
4. Abbas Al Mosawi - Qatar - Range Rover - 22 points.
5. Tareq Al Wazzan - Kuwait - Marlboro Range Rover - 20 points.

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

Best partner

NEWCASTLE, England, Dec 22. (UPI): Newcastle striker Paul Goddard said this week that his Brazilian strike partner Mirandinha is the best player he has ever played with. "He is quicker than anyone I have ever seen and possesses a helluva shot. He can produce a wicked shot to send the ball dipping and bending in a way that seems to come naturally to South Americans. "He is so quick over five to 10 yards that if you put the ball in behind the opposition he is always going to create problems."

Carole Burton

CAMBRIDGE, England, Dec 22. (UPI): Carole Burton, who coxed Cambridge to victory over Oxford in the 1986 university boat race, is in hospital suffering from meningitis. Carole, 22, was described as being in a "serious" condition although a hospital spokesman said there had been a slight improvement.

Top athletes

SOFIA, Dec 22. (UPI): World champions Hristo Markov (triple jump) and Stefka Kostadinova (high jump) have been voted Bulgarian Sportsman and Sports-woman of the Year. The two athletes scooped the votes of 155 journalists in a poll conducted by "Naroden Sport" newspaper.

Fans charged

SEREESE, Greece, Dec 22. (AP): Charges were filed yesterday against seven Olympiakos Piraeus fans who allegedly stoned panzerkiss supporters and smashed store windows after the two First Division soccer team drew 2-2 Sunday, police said.

Bull triumphs

MIAMI BEACH, Florida, Dec 22. (AP): Unranked Will Bull of the United States defeated fourth-seeded Arne Thoms of West Germany 7-5, 6-3 as three of the top seven seeds in boys 16 play lost in second-round action of the Orange Bowl International Championships.

Cup preparations

GLASGOW, Dec 22. (UPI): Scotland is lining up an eight-match warm-up programme next year to prepare for the qualifying competition of the 1990 World Soccer Cup finals.

Games bid

SAPPORO, Japan, Dec 22. (UPI): The city of Sapporo which hosted the 1972 Winter Olympics announced yesterday plans to bid for the even again in 1998.

O'Neill sidelined

WIMBLEDON, England, Dec 22. (UPI): A Northern Ireland soccer international underwent a two-and-a-half-hour knee operation Sunday night and the injury could force him out of the game.

Player arrested

ANTWERP, Belgium, Dec 22. (UPI): Belgian international soccer star Marc Vandenlinden, who plays for League leader Antwerp, has been arrested on charges connected with the theft of fur coats, a court official said yesterday.

BRIDGE

RESULTS of the game held at the Sheraton Hotel on Friday:
N/S:
1. Ignace Meouchi & Mamoud Sabri
2. Narendra Shah & Khurshid Zaidi
3. Adly Taib & Magdi Mesdary
E/W:
1. Dr Henry Szul & Gregory Latala
2. Merchant & Ravi Bhat
3. B.R. Sharma & M. Gajjar.

INTERNATIONAL BOXING CHIEF PRAISES ORGANISERS

South Koreans shine at Asian boxing tourney

SOUTH KOREAN boxers were back to their winning ways on Monday evening when five more of them moved into the next round of the 13th Asian Boxing Championship at Kuwait's Handball Federation Hall.

The boxers from India, Iraq, and Thailand were not to be left far behind as they claimed three victories each. Pakistan, which had been on a winning spree, lost three bouts on Monday while two went through. Mongolia and Thailand also achieved two victories each.

Some of the boxers who won on Monday moved into the finals while the others qualified for the semifinals. The finals and the semifinals will be held tomorrow as today is a rest day.

Overpowered

Two more of Kuwait's boxers lost on Monday. Nasif Jassem was the first to lose when he was overpowered by Pakistan's Mohammad Latif in a flyweight bout.

Hussain Al Shatti found that he was no match for Iraq's Khaled Rahim in the middleweight class and his Kuwaiti trainer asked the fight to be stopped.

In the light-flyweight category two bouts were held. In the first, Shat Saasool of Thailand beat Saadoun of Iraq on a technical knockout while Kwang Sou of South Korea scored a points victory over Mamoru of Japan.

Flyweight Torsak Bongner of Thailand gave his country a second win when he outpointed Ratna of Nepal. In the same category, Aamer Jawad of Iraq beat Sufani of Indonesia on points and Kwang Kim scored a similar victory over Hamed Halabouni of Syria.



Choudhry (centre): addressing the press conference

In the featherweight category Ilihan of Indonesia beat Oushi Yasan of Japan, Yoon Park of South Korea beat Ershad Hussain of Pakistan, Muboj Amraj of Mongolia defeated Abbas Khalaf of Iraq and John Williams of India overcame Basam Al Hindi of Syria. All the fights were decided on points.

Adrianos of Indonesia beat Ahmed Fayez of Syria in a light weight bout. In the same class, Dinesh of India defeated Satoru of Japan, Abdul Khaliq out-boxed Sotai Jotia of Thailand and Parasita Khan of Mongolia had the better of Yong Kim of South Korea.

In the middleweight bouts, Devi Chandan of India beat Hiroshi of Japan, Sannan of Thailand defeated Ali Hantahl of Oman and Wekiang Sung of South Korea beat Othman Tata of Pakistan.

There were only two fights in the light-middleweight category. In the first, Abbas Khalil of Iraq beat Ahrar Hussain of Pakistan and the other was won by Park Si

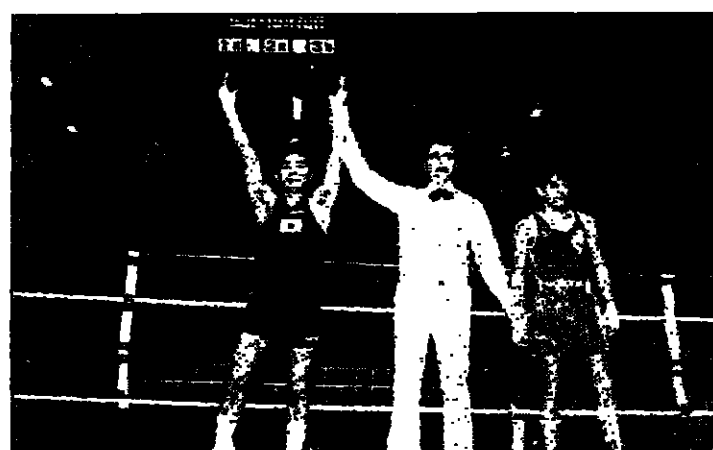
of South Korea against Gopal of India.

Meanwhile, the president of the International Amateur Boxing Federation, Anwar Choudhry, has proposed that Kuwait host an international boxing championship annually to upgrade the level of the sport in this country.

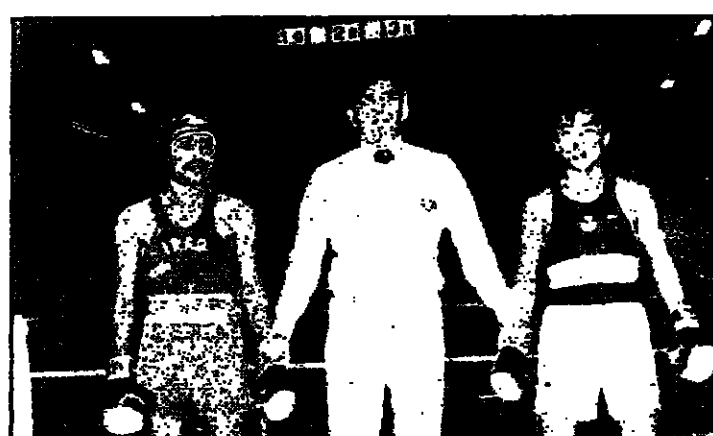
Serious

Choudhry, addressing a press conference at the Holiday Inn late Monday evening, said that Kuwait had good boxers but they required more serious training and fights with top international boxers. He added that no progress could be achieved without the Kuwaiti boxers taking to the international scene. He cited the example of Cuba which, being a small country, had achieved a very high standard in the sport.

Choudhry also said that the international federation was ready to support Kuwait and



A South Korean is declared the winner.



An Iraqi boxer (left) draws blood from his Japanese opponent.

provide facilities to the Kuwait Boxing Federation to enable it to hold international championships.

The international federation president was full of praise for the Kuwaiti Federation for its excellent organisation of the present Asian event. He added that Kuwait had proved that it was capable of organising similar

international events.

Choudhry particularly praised Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed, the chairman of the Olympic Council of Asia, for his efforts towards the betterment of the sports movement in Asia and Kuwait.

He thanked the Kuwaiti and Asian sports leaders for their support in his election to the

presidency of the international federation.

Talking about the international federation's preparations for the Seoul Olympics, Choudhry said that the body was trying to find ways to overcome one major obstacle usually faced — objection and criticism of referees, specially during Olympics.

Choudhry said that the federation was trying to modify computers which would help in the refereeing of bouts. He added that the computers were ready for use but would not be employed in Seoul but in the 1992 Olympics. The computers would also be provided by the federation to poor and developing countries.

In the meantime a training session would be held for 44 referees and judges who would be used in the coming Olympics. The course will be held in Seoul in April next year.

Important

The international federation plans to hold a meeting in March as a final rehearsal for the 1988 Olympics. Choudhry said that the meeting would be an important test for the participating boxers, referees, judges and administrators.

Choudhry rejected proposals for the inclusion of professional boxers at the Seoul Olympics. He added that he would never give in to such proposals and could not bear to see an amateur hurt by boxers like Larry Holmes or Spinks.

He also revealed that the federation was, however, studying a proposal to increase the number of rounds in the amateur bouts from three to six. He said that this would only be implemented after a lot of experimentation.

Holmertz swims to 200m win

ORLANDO, Fla., Dec 22. (Reuters): Sweden's Anders Holmertz, ranked first in the world in the men's 200-metre freestyle after upsetting world record holder Michael Gross of West Germany at the European Championships, won the event at the US Open swimming meet yesterday.

Record

Holmertz, 19, took gold by a full second over American Matt Cetinski. The Swede clocked one minute 49.09 seconds while Cetinski touched in 1:50.10. American Sean Kilian was third in 1:50.57.

Holmertz, second on Sunday night in the 400-metre freestyle

with a new Swedish national record of 3:50.03, has already qualified for the 1988 Seoul Olympics in both the 400 and 200-metre freestyle events for Sweden.

"When I beat Gross it was nothing special," Holmertz said. "I thought Gross would swim faster at the European Championships. But it did give me confidence for the future."

China's Hong Qian, 16, continued to be impressive in the women's 100-metre butterfly with a victory in 1:00.05. Qian, ranked fourth in the world in the event, won it at the Pan Pacific Championships last summer in Brisbane, Australia.

Britain's Andy Jameson, 22, edged out Anthony Nesty of Surinam in the men's 100-metre butterfly. Jameson clocked 53.63, just .20 seconds ahead of Nesty, who won his country's first ever international swimming gold medal at the Pan American Games in August.

America's rising superstar Janet Evans continued her winning ways yesterday although in somewhat less dramatic fashion than on Sunday.

In the opening day of the meet Evans broke a nine-year-old world record in 400-metre freestyle with a time of 4:05.45.

Yesterday Evans was untested in the 400-metre individual

medley. Her time of 4:39.75 broke her own meet record and was over nine seconds better than her closest competitor, American Tami Bruce.

Record

US Olympians Betsy Mitchell and Mary Wayte also won individual events.

Mitchell, the current world record holder in the 200-metre backstroke, won the 100-metre backstroke.

Wayte, Olympic gold medalist in the 200-metre freestyle, broke her own meet record for the event with a time of 1:59.24. Luminita Dobrescu of Romania was second in 2:01.54 and Britain's June Croft was third in 2:02.17.

Maradona takes break in Argentina after busy week

BUENOS AIRES, Dec 22. (Reuters): Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona arrived here yesterday for the end of year holidays, taking a break after a busy week in which he captained Napoli and world champions Argentina to victories.

Maradona told reporters on arrival he was nursing a pulled leg muscle and a swollen eye after Napoli's 4-1 home win over Verona on Sunday.

"The match with Verona was very hard, although we won. In general I think I played well considering the trips and matches I had in these last days," Maradona said.

Maradona travelled 35,000-km within a week.

He left Italy a week ago for Argentina's international friendly against West Germany in Buenos Aires after Napoli's 2-1 win over Juventus and flew back on Thursday to prepare for the match against Verona.



Maradona: had a busy time

Maradona led Argentina to a 1-0 win against the Germans in a rematch of the 1986 World Cup final.

He set up the winning goal for Jorge Burruchaga, just as he did in Mexico in Argentina's 3-2 World Cup triumph.

Highland Fling sails to victory

SYDNEY, Dec 22. (Reuters): Hong Kong yacht Highland Fling sailed to its second win in the Southern Cross Cup today to establish itself as favourite for the gruelling run from Sydney to Hobart, the last race in the series.

In a strong south-easterly, America's Cup skipper Chris Dickson sailed the 58-foot yacht superbly over a 24-mile course off Sydney.

He also won the first race on handicap in the five-race series.

Yacht

The series will end on December 26 with the field of 33 international yachts racing from Sydney to Hobart.

The United States' yacht Jubilation was second in today's

fourth race.

New Zealand yachts Fair Share and Mad Max were third and fourth respectively ahead of Australian yachts Sagacious V and Madeline's Daughter.

The American yacht Sidewinder, at the centre of controversy yesterday after being withdrawn, then reinstated, in a dispute over sail markings, finished seventh.

Madjer moves to Valencia

MADRID, Dec 22. (Reuters): Porto's Algerian international striker Rabah Madjer, bound for Bayern Munich next season, is joining Spanish club Valencia for six months.

Madjer said today that he would play for Valencia from January 1. "I hope to have as

much success with Valencia as with Porto and help them end the season in the top four or five in the League."

Madjer, who played for Portugal's Porto when they beat Bayern in the European Cup final last May, will join the West German next July on a three-year contract.

Player defects

MIAMI, Dec 22. (AP): A Romanian tennis player seeking political asylum defected yesterday at Miami international airport, authorities said.

A 17-year-old girl was turned over to FBI agents, metro-dade police spokesman Rey Valdes said. The Miami Herald identified her as Madalina Voinea.



England batsman Nick Cook's shot off-balance Pakistan skipper Javed Miandad and wicketkeeper Ashraf Ali on the last day of the final Test yesterday. (Reuters radiophoto)

Burke's Peerage raps England

LONDON, Dec 22. (Reuters): England cricketers get no credit for their behaviour in Pakistan at least not from Burke's Peerage, a leading authority on noble manners.

The sportsmen may have returned home from Pakistan today to a £1,000 (\$1,800) bonus from England's cricketing authorities for "picking themselves up" after umpiring rows in Pakistan, but Burke's Peerage thinks that money is part of the problem.

Longley said Bond had personally spent more than a million dollars on preliminary work on Walzing Matilda with construction to start on January 4.

"That's the deadline San Diego have to meet for Alan Bond's participation. There is not enough time otherwise," Longley said. "But we are dealing with irrational people and you cannot spend money when irrational people are setting the terms."

word has come to symbolise our over-emphasis on money. That's more the failing, unfortunately, of too many sportsmen," Burke's Peerage spokesman Harold Brookes-Baker said.

Revolt

"Our cricketers should realise that they are now a source of embarrassment to many supporters," said Brookes-Baker, adding that the only sports at which people lost with good grace were those where the amateur still reigned.

A day's play was lost during a Test match in Faisalabad after English captain Mike Gatting had a heated argument with umpire Shakoor Rana who

refused to continue until the English cricket board ordered Gatting to give him a written apology.

English cricket board executive Alan Smith denied that the bonus was awarded to quell a revolt among the players who were backing Gatting, saying: "We have made it (the bonus) as a vote of confidence in the players and a way of thanking them for the way they have picked themselves up after the recent problems."

The sportsmen's behaviour was nevertheless "neither imperial nor cricket," Brookes-Baker said.

Burke's Peerage is the leading director of British nobility.

Shakoor refuses to comment on inquiry

KARACHI, Dec 22. (Reuters): Controversial umpire Shakoor Rana refused to comment today about his appearance before an inquiry committee investigating his row with England captain Mike Gatting earlier this month. Shakoor and cricket officials confirmed that the umpire had appeared before a two-man inquiry investigating the incident which threatened England's tour of Pakistan. But they would not comment on the proceedings.

Changing

Gatting and Shakoor accused each other of using bad language during the second Test in Faisalabad when Shakoor stopped the England captain from changing the field after a Pakistani batsman had taken up his stance.

More than a day's play was lost before the issue was resolved when Gatting gave a written apology to Shakoor.

"I am not allowed to say anything unless the committee allows me," Shakoor told reporters. "I have told the committee members about what happened and what all the people saw on the ground and on the screen."

"As far as I am concerned, I was right to ask for the apology. It was me who was hurt, not Gatting. My job as an umpire is to tell the players what is right and what is wrong."

"I feel the authorities and the establishment must be respected by the players and unless it is done, indiscipline will creep into the gentleman's game. This is what is happening at the moment."

Officiate

Shakoor said he would continue umpiring for as long as the Pakistan cricket board wanted him to officiate. "I love it and the game, and I will continue as long as I can."

The board will make a report on the Shakoor-Gatting row to the English Test and County Cricket Board and the International Cricket Conference.

England left for home this morning after losing the three-Test series 1-0.

Vengsarkar told not to write column

MADRAS, India, Dec 22. (Reuters): Indian cricket captain Dilip Vengsarkar has again been told that he cannot write a newspaper column on the current Test series against West Indies.

Ranbir Singh, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), said today: "The board has refused Vengsarkar permission to write and has asked him to meet the press before and after the matches."

Earlier this month the BCCI forbade Vengsarkar to write the syndicated column on pain of fines or suspension.

Letters

Vengsarkar, supported by the entire Indian Test squad, last week sent two letters to the board defending his right to write and pointing out that a column by West Indies skipper Viv Richards was also published in the Indian media.

Singh told reporters after a BCCI meeting today that if Vengsarkar wanted to express his and his team's opinions, he could do so by meeting the press. "He is bound morally, and legally not to write," said Singh. The board had issued a formal notice on December 14 forbidding him to do so, he added, and if the captain did not reply by its next meeting on December 29 it would be assumed that "he has nothing to say in the matter."

Two new buyers bid for Watford

LONDON, Dec 22. (Reuters): Two potential new buyers of English First Division soccer club Watford have already come forward after publisher Robert Maxwell's decision to call off the £2 million (\$3.64 million) deal.

Paul White, a spokesman for club chairman Elton John, would not reveal their identities. But he said yesterday: "While we take every inquiry at face value, we then face a lot of checking up on their background and financial position before we get down to serious talks."

Rock singer John has instructed his soccer brokers, Hanover Druce Football League Consultancy, to research thoroughly the background of any would-be purchasers.

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